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THE CONSTITUTION AND THE INDIAN ARMY.

THE debates in both Houses of Parliament this week have laboured under this disadvantage—that while really inspired by grave differences in regard to Imperial policy, they have been confined in point of form to technical and somewhat obscure points of law. There can be no doubt that if the independence or the honour of the country had been really and manifestly involved, the Opposition would have been very ready to condone any slight stretch of Constitutional principles that might have been necessary for their defence. The real objection to the doubtful step taken by the Ministry was the additional indication it affords of the rapid development of an Imperial policy inconsistent with the constitutional traditions of the English race, and with the highest interests of civilisation. Lord Beaconsfield has conceived the idea of welding the scattered possessions of Great Britain into an Imperial dominion after the Roman type; and for this object a vast army, recruited amongst semi-barbarous dependencies, is an essential instrument. The feeling of the Opposition, and, as we believe, that of a large majority of the people, if they could only be got to understand the issue, is distinctly opposed to this ambitious dream. We do not for a moment say that it is in favour of any disintegration of the Empire. But we believe that the healthy sentiment of Englishmen, whether at home or in the colonies, is in favour only of that unity of power and co-operation which is developed out of common interests and common principles. Lord Beaconsfield, with his usual quickness to seize opportunities, evidently believes that statutes and precedents made under very different circumstances offer no express prohibition of a step sure to commend itself to the rowdy spirit now prevalent. The Opposition, on the other hand, or at least Lord Selborne and Lord Hartington, thought that they could make good their objections from a legal point of view without trenching on the general question of policy. The course of the debate, we think, shows that they were mistaken. There is no doubt, indeed, that the spirit of the Bill of Rights, and the intention of the annual Mutiny Act, are entirely opposed to the raising of an Indian army for European purposes without the consent of Parliament. But the words of the Bill of Rights were dictated by experience, not by prophetic inspiration; and there is therefore little wonder if clever advocates are able to show that those words do not precisely cover existing circumstances. The truth is we are only just awakening to the vast responsibility thrown upon the country by the alteration effected

in the Government of India twenty years ago. The modification of old precedents necessary in order to adapt them to the enormous Empire now under the sway of the Crown would require something of the vigorous patriotic spirit existing in the times when those precedents were established, and such a spirit we need scarcely say is entirely in abeyance at the present moment.

Under such circumstances the course of the debate could hardly be satisfactory to thorough-going Liberals. Disputants, on the one side, who insisted on the plain demands of the Bill of Rights for the control of Parliament over the members of a standing army, have been met by special pleaders on the other, who point to the limitation of this demand to the area of the Kingdom, and to a time of peace. Then ensues a struggle as to the meaning of the word "kingdom." It has been contended with much plausibility that this signifies at the most Great Britain and Ireland. And, again, supporters of a Ministry whose avowed object is the preservation of peace declare it to be in their minds a very doubtful question whether we may be fairly said to be living in a time of peace or not. Precedents are equally obscure. Troops of Hessians were raised under the Georges without Parliamentary consent; but then, it is urged, this was in a time of war. Sepoys were employed in the Abyssinian campaign, but then it is retorted the consent of Parliament was given by the passage of a vote of credit or an estimate. Lord Selborne delivered a long, elaborate, and learned argument against the action of the Ministry, but it is obvious he did not consider any grave Constitutional question to be at issue; otherwise he would certainly have concluded with a resolution. The Lord Chancellor delivered a long, elaborate, and learned argument on the other side; and Lord Beaconsfield mockingly observed that the chief interest of the evening consisted in the gladiatorial encounter between these two heroes of legal erudition. In the House of Commons the most satisfactory thing is that the Government has made no pretence of disputing the general constitutional principle laid down by Lord Hartington's motion. They have, as we anticipated last week, put forward an amendment which, in effect, shoves the question as irrelevant and inexpedient. Of course they will carry it. But the speeches made by the Opposition will remain on record as a valuable protest against the fashionable mania for stretching the royal prerogative, and a warning against future attempts to presume on the submission of Parliament.

The upshot, so far as we can judge at this present time of writing, seems to be that the English habit of dependence upon precedent absolutely requires a constant attitude of watchfulness and even jealousy to make it an effective guarantee of constitutional growth. When the Bill of Rights was passed the foreign possessions of England were utterly insignificant compared with their present vastness. At the end of the seventeenth century patriotism could conceive of no dangers but such as had been experienced under the encroachments of the Stuarts, or the excessive vigour of Cromwell's rule. Such dangers were simply guarded against if the maintenance of a standing army could be prevented. Readers of Mr. Lecky's recent volumes will be reminded afresh of the persistent distrust with which all proposals to keep up an army were regarded, not merely by the Whigs, but even more by the Tories of the earlier part of the last century. In such a mood of public feeling it was sufficient if a guarantee

were obtained that the Crown should have no power of raising or maintaining an army in England in time of peace without the consent of Parliament. What the men of that day would have said, could they have foreseen that after the lapse of a century and a-half the Crown would have a population of two hundred millions in a foreign dominion from which to draw recruits, we of course cannot tell. But we are tolerably confident that the Constitutional precedents they established would have provided more expressly than they actually did, against the dangers possibly involved in such a prospect. All goes to show that the Government of India is a question demanding far more serious attention than it has ever yet received. The Liberal party have not been true to themselves on this point. Men like Mr. Bright and Mr. Fawcett have hitherto failed to command the attention which their mastery of the subject, as well as their earnest convictions, deserved. And as the party seems even yet somewhat in want of a programme for the future, we venture to suggest that a reform in the Government of India, and a more satisfactory definition of its relation to the British Constitution, would be well worth their consideration. Should the threatening clouds of the last few months pass away without worse disaster, we shall have at least one thing on which we can look back with thankfulness in the Ministry of Lord Beaconsfield, and that is the revelation he has afforded of the dangers that may arise to our own development through our persistent neglect of many great questions involved in the government of India.

CLERICAL REVOLUTIONISTS.

WHILE reports of the proceedings of Parliament are read by all intelligent Englishmen, the proceedings of Convocation are probably devoid of interest to the bulk of newspaper readers. This indifference is due to several causes. One is that the majority of the people do not belong to the Church with the affairs of which the Convocations deal. Another, that their modes of procedure are so antique, and so complex, as to be unintelligible to those who do not make a point of understanding them. But, probably, the main cause for this indifference is to be found in the unpractical character of the Convocations. They are regarded as mere talking bodies, which meet, and debate, and adjourn, and then go through the same processes over again, without anything coming of it, in the form of Church organisation, or improved administration and work.

We think it is time that both politicians and the general public turned their attention with some degree of seriousness to Convocational designs and aspirations; for it is obvious that the ecclesiastics who have hitherto seemed to meet to so little practical purpose intend, if possible, to clear themselves from that reproach, by claiming to exercise powers the possession of which would wholly change, not only their own position, but that of the Church of England as a national institution.

At one of its meetings last week, the Lower House of Convocation of the Province of Canterbury had before it the draft of a parliamentary bill "to provide facilities for the amendment from time to time of the rules and ceremonies of the Church of England"; and, after discussing it clause by clause, the House approved of the measure, and sent it to the Upper House of Convocation. This bill has a double purpose—one relating to the past, the other the future. The retrospective portion deals with the recom-

mendations already agreed to by the two Houses of Convocation, and which, it is stated, contain a hundred alterations of, and "meddle with every service in, the Prayer-book"; and these alterations, as scheduled, are to be incorporated in that book, and to have the same authority as the existing rubrics and directions authorised by the Act of Uniformity, and subsequent amending Acts.

This part of the bill was strongly objected to, and ultimately carried by a majority of one only. And objected to for what reason? Avowedly because it would afford Parliament the opportunity of dealing with the rubrics. "If," said Canon Gregory, "we put the details in a schedule, they will be read at the table of the House of Commons, and will be open to any alteration the members may please to make. Parliament may then put in 'notes' and take out 'notes,' until they make the whole of our rubrics exactly contrary to what we intend, and the bill would never come back to us until it is the law, which we are bound to obey." Very naturally, the Canon objects to delegate such power to a body constituted as is the House of Commons, and thinks that it may shipwreck the Church. The Rev. Sir George Prevost, taking the same line, said that if the Bill were to be discussed in detail "they had better tear it up at once," as he "earnestly deprecated any action that would bring their proceedings definitely and distinctly before Parliament."

The other portion of the Bill is far more comprehensive and far-reaching, and that was supported with a unanimity which is not surprising, only because it has been displayed in one of the Houses of Convocation. The object of this part of the bill, briefly stated, is to prevent the parliamentary discussion of all questions relating to the rites and ceremonies of the Established Church, and to do so by giving the initiative to Convocation, and allowing to Parliament only the right of veto. For this purpose the bill, as drafted, affirms that "it is expedient that, while the faith and doctrine of the Established Church of England remain unaltered, increased facilities should be given for the regulation from time to time of the rites and ceremonies of the said Church, as the change of circumstances may seem to require." And it is therefore enacted that the two Convocations, with the royal licence, may from time to time lay before the Queen in Council a scheme for altering the rubrics, and for providing additional services and prayers. Such scheme is then to be presented to both Houses of Parliament, and if either House, within forty days, presents an address to the Queen, praying her "to withhold her consent from such scheme, or any part thereof, no further proceeding shall be had with respect to such scheme, or part, as the case may be, during the then session of Parliament." If the scheme be not objected to, the Queen may make an order for its ratification, and, as soon as it has been published in the *London Gazette*, it will have all the force of an Act of Parliament.

One would have thought that this would have gone far enough to satisfy the highest ecclesiasticism to be found even in the Lower House of Convocation. But no! The bill as drawn gave too much liberty to Parliament; since it allowed objection to be taken to any part of a scheme, as well as to the scheme as a whole, and it was urged that "it would be better to ask Parliament to deal with the scheme as a whole, and not with any part of it," and so the words "or any part thereof" were struck out, and it was decreed—so far as these clerics could decree it—that Parliament, hitherto supposed to be the Church's master, shall henceforth either endorse or reject what the Convocations propose, in the way of altering rubrics and services, and be without power either to initiate legislation of its own for the purpose, or to revise the alterations proposed by Convocation.

Was it from sheer audacity, or from mere stolidity, that so revolutionary a change in the existing relations between Church and State was proposed and approved, without the utterance of a word to indicate the certainty of

opposition in Parliament, the power of which it is proposed to subvert, or the probability that it would be repugnant to the feelings of the laity of the Church? Do the members of the Lower House of the Canterbury Convocation "live up in a balloon," and so know nothing of what is thought by men below? Or do they think that the English people have forgotten all past history, and ceased to attach importance to its teachings; or have they been so demoralised by the Disraelian régime, as to suppose that anything in the nature of a coup, so that it be bold enough, and dangerous enough, is certain to succeed?

And who are these clerical gentlemen that claim to have the virtual power of deciding in future what shall be the rites and ceremonies of the National Church? Do they represent the laity of that Church? Do they fairly represent even the clergy? The Episcopalian laity have not the slightest power in electing, or controlling, the proceedings of Convocation and, as Canon Ryle says, the representation of the clergy is "ridiculously unfair." The House of Convocation, with which we are now dealing, contains 145 members, and of these 103 are deans, archdeacons and cathedral proctors, and only forty-two represent the parochial clergy! "Such a state of things," says the candid canon, "is simply ludicrous, preposterous, and contrary to common-sense," and reminds one of the famous three tailors of Tooley-street. He goes further when he adds, "Convocation as it is, I unhesitatingly assert, is a mere mockery and a delusion, and had far better cease to exist."

Instead, however, of wishing to be either reformed or abolished, Convocation grasps at more power; that it may have both the laity and the Parliament of England at its feet. And what is the moment chosen for making these daring demands? Why, when the country is alarmed at the growth, the organisation, and the defiant attitude of the sacerdotalism existing within the English Church. Parliament has passed a new Act, and practically created a new Court, to repress, if it be possible, the ritualistic excesses of the clergy, and both Act and Court are set at naught by recalcitrant clergymen, amid the applause of sympathising supporters. And this is the time when the clergy—or rather a section of the clergy—ask Parliament to waive its own powers, and to allow them to manipulate the rubrics, and to fashion the services, of the Church according to their own convictions, or crochets, or caprices; with no other check than the utterly inadequate one of a parliamentary veto, in the form of an address to the Crown!

A change must indeed have come over the English mind if it be possible to carry through the Imperial Parliament such a bill as that which the clerical parliament has been for some time so carefully preparing. But where there is public ignorance and supineness there is always danger. We therefore call attention to these recent incidents, as deserving more notice than most of the proceedings of Convocation, and recommend that future action in the matter should be carefully watched.

THE RIOTS IN LANCASHIRE.

THE readers of M. Taine's recently published volume on the French Revolution probably comfort themselves under the monotony of his catalogues of incendiaryisms and robberies with the reflection that these barbarities belong to a past generation, and are unlikely to recur under the altered conditions of modern life. If so, they have been rudely awakened from an illusion by the startling events of the last fortnight. As we read of country houses sacked and burned, of property destroyed, and even the lives of owners threatened, we might very easily fancy ourselves living in the eighteenth century and under the first proclamation of the rights of man. But the facts have to be faced, and, if possible, the true lessons to be drawn from them. The class that bore with pathetic heroism the long slow agony caused by the American civil war, has rushed into sudden

frenzy on the refusal of the employers to adopt the policy which this class thought wisest. Riots, insults, assaults, incendiarism, and even attempts at murder, have resulted in swift and astounding succession from the determination of mill-owners to lessen the expenses of production without diminishing the quantity. The operatives were not indisposed to submit to the ten per cent. reduction in wages. They admitted that in the present state of trade this was inevitable. But they insisted that by way of compensation the masters should join them in applying what in the eyes of the workmen was an infallible remedy for the evil—that is, the limitation of production. In other words, the operatives were willing to accept the reduction of wages if it were accompanied by a reduction of time. The fact that this involved a greater diminution of earnings than anything proposed by the masters was in itself a proof of sincerity on the part of the men. The latter seem to have made a great point of this, and to have been scandalised by the unwillingness of the employers to accept their sacrifice. There must be something unreasonable and perverse, they seem to have argued, in such a refusal. Hence they lost temper, and violence was the result.

There were probably other causes at work on which we shall have a word to say presently; but undoubtedly the chief incentive to the hostility so unusually exhibited was a fixed idea that limitation of production is the true remedy for the chronic congestion of markets under which trade is suffering, and that the masters, in refusing to agree to this, even though the men consented at the same time to the proposed reduction in wages, must have been actuated by sheer perversity and hardness of heart. The argument has just the kind of plausibility which, with half-informed minds attending only to one aspect of a question, passes for unanswerable logic. Notwithstanding all our boasts of extended education, it would perhaps be too much yet to expect from the average artisan a comprehension of the infinite difficulty that must attend any arbitrary attempt to guide or to repress the natural course of trade. If English manufacturers lessened their production to any extent sufficient to affect the market, it is certain that the influence of this policy would be completely neutralised by a corresponding enlargement of production on the continent of Europe, perhaps also in America and in India. The only sound and the only effectual method of relieving the markets is such a policy amongst the ruling powers of the world as usually tends to quicken demand, and at the same time such a diminution in the cost of production as facilitates the revival of demand. Such reflections, we may admit, are scarcely to be expected so long as even the rudiments of political economy are excluded from elementary schools. But it is scarcely unreasonable to suppose that men familiar with the practical working of mills must have been fully aware that short time, involving, as it does, loss of interest on capital, and deterioration of machinery unbalanced by work done, would more than neutralise any advantage accruing to capitalists through a ten per cent. diminution in wages. Now, the only reason for the proposal to reduce wages—most unwillingly made as we believe it to have been—was the impossibility of running the mills any longer at the serious loss which almost all employers were suffering. The counter proposal of the men, though to do them justice it evidenced a good deal of self-control and, at any rate, a blundering attempt at forecast, failed entirely to touch the real difficulty of the situation, and was, therefore, necessarily unacceptable. The proposal made by Alderman Pickop for the resumption of work on the employers' terms, with the promise of a reconsideration at the end of three months, seems as much of a compromise as the circumstances will admit; and, perhaps, now that passion has exhausted itself, the voice of reason may once more be heard.

But, making all allowance for the plausibility of the workmen's case in their own eyes, and

for the natural irritation they felt on finding that their offer of a twofold sacrifice was rejected, we cannot express too strongly the disappointment and dismay with which we have witnessed the unexpected violence of an industrious and, for the most part, intelligent and thoughtful population. Endeavours have been made to account for the surprise by explanations that the disorders were due, not to the cotton operatives themselves, but to the roughs and idlers always ready to make any social excitement an opportunity for disorder. Unfortunately, however, that explanation is contradicted by painful facts. Numerous mill-hands have been arrested amongst the active rioters. It is true that the strike committees have put forth printed exhortations against violence. But they would have done much better if they had encouraged the formation of a force of special constables amongst the workmen themselves for the repression of the disorderly class on whom they lay the blame. The fact, that at this time of day, it should have been necessary to call out the soldiery to control popular discontent, and to clear the streets by charges of cavalry in order to prevent incendiarism, is a disgrace to our civilisation, and shows only too plainly how near the surface of society are the old elements of barbarism and chaos. How far the savage spirit of arrogant self-will encouraged by the popular policy of the day may be chargeable with this readiness to appeal to violence on the slightest provocation, we shall not attempt hastily to determine. But the perversity with which the Government, in the face of this spreading misery, pursues a course absolutely destructive to the peaceful avocations of commerce, may well strike despair into the hearts of men struggling vainly for daily bread, and directly or indirectly excite passions subversive of domestic peace.

"THE REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH."

THERE is a great flutter, if not much alarm, in high ecclesiastical circles. Our readers have no doubt occasionally heard of a Free Church of England, which formed a number of isolated congregations with an Episcopal ritual. At last there arose a bishop, viz., Dr. Gregg, a seceding clergyman of the Church of England, who went to America, and was consecrated a bishop of "the Reformed Episcopal Church," which, we are told, "extends from British Columbia to England." Bishop Gregg assumed his episcopal functions in this country about a year ago, and settled at Southend, where, according to the Bishop of St. Albans, he has created a great commotion, or to use the exact phrase, "is doing much mischief." This might not have aroused the Episcopal ire, but Dr. Gregg and his coadjutor, "Bishop Sugden," have been advertising confirmations, consecrating new churches, and drawing a good many Churchmen to their services. This could not be borne. On the announcement that Bishop Gregg was to open a new Episcopal place of worship at Littlehampton, the Bishop of Chichester issued a notice to the members of the Church of England reminding them that that Church, "as by law established, is the Reformed Episcopal Church in this realm, and that no other body of Christians has any right to that title." Shortly after the Bishop of St. Albans took a similar step, and now we find the leading members of the Upper House of Convocation giving their deliverance on the matter after a fashion which is hardly calculated to exalt them in the estimation of at least the Church laity. Possibly our estimate of the dignity and uses of Convocation is more limited than it should be, but true friends of the Bench of Bishops must have learnt with surprise, if not with pain, that the most important sitting of the Upper House last week was devoted to a condemnation of a humble but rival section of Episcopalians.

Either the danger to the Established Church by the progress of these Episcopal Dissenters must be really serious, or the right rev. fathers

must be panic-stricken, when such prominence is given to the movement of Bishop Gregg and his supporters. The bishops could not but be aware that they were advertising the Reformed Episcopalian Church in the most effectual way, and that too at a time when there is a widespread disaffection towards the Anglican Church among the laity. It is also to be feared that the attitude assumed by the members of the Episcopal Bench was not of a character to lessen that discontent. No less than eleven bishops took part in the debate on "the heresy" which, according to the Bishop of Lincoln, is assuming such "large proportions." It was denounced as an unwarrantable intrusion, and as headed by *quasi* bishops, who had not been consecrated in a canonical way, and were trying to make converts under false pretences. One after another of these right rev. prelates rose to complain of the heresy which was disturbing so many dioceses, and to urge the necessity of vindicating the rights of the only true Church of England. Such an attitude may be necessary on the part of those whose prescriptive claims have been thus rudely challenged. But it is a somewhat pitiful spectacle, and reminds one too much of the strolling player's protestation to Little Nell—"Codlin's the friend, not Short." Even the serene Primate, while disclaiming all fear of the issue of the movement, seemed rather taken aback at the novel idea of there being Dissenters with bishops, and actually claiming Episcopal succession, and was somewhat severe in his bitter remark that they were "a number of persons who were schismatics disturbing the Church of England," and putting forward "a sort of pretension" that they were that Church. But the Archbishop of Canterbury hopes they will "have no more trouble with them than they had with other Dissenting bodies, many of whom have ministers of learning and experience. But still," added Dr. Tait, with his characteristic assumption of superiority, "the people of this country fully understand that this is not the same thing as the Church of England."

The protesting bishops were not only unanimous in repudiating these outside Episcopalians who are disturbing the peace of the Church, but in general agreement as to the reasons why they had met with so much success. It "derives all its force," mournfully remarked the Bishop of Lincoln, "from our own unhappy divisions." The heretics, said Dr. Wordsworth, find the justification, or rather apology, for their schism in this—"that the Church of England is in that state of disorder, that there are so many of our clergy now rising up in rebellion against law, that there is so much mutiny in the camp itself, that they have been obliged to relinquish their position in the Church of England, and that they have no alternative but to secede to a separate communion." Excess of Ritualism, remarked the Bishop of Lincoln, was the cause of this lamentable state of things. So also said the Bishop of Llandaff and the Bishop of Peterborough. Dr. Magee, indeed, took occasion to warn the clergy of the inevitable result, viz., that they were seriously putting in peril the large liberties that they now enjoy. It was impossible to legislate against disloyalty:—

You may (he said) place on the Statute Book an almost infinite number of small enactments that this or that shall not be done, but when you have done there will be still room for the perverse ingenuity of those who wish to strain the law in the direction to which their own inclinations tend. If the spirit of disloyalty continues, this contempt for the laws of their own Church, no law that you can enact, no penalties that you can inflict can stop the evil, and the end must be not merely the disestablishment, but, what we fear more, the disruption of the Church of England. That, I think, is certainly coming. This spirit of disloyalty, this hankering after everything that is Romish, and this contempt for everything that is distinctively English, must inevitably have that effect.

Nevertheless, it is the timidity, or the desire to make things pleasant, of the Episcopal Bench that has nullified the provisions of the Public Worship Act, and brought things to the present pass. The bishops are now confronted with a movement that they cannot control, and that cannot be put down by Episcopal denunciation. As the Rev. E. O. Bligh, the sturdy but unsuccessful champion of Liturgical Revision, re-

marks in the *Record*, "it is simply a movement for the relief of Protestant Churchmen worshipping according to the forms of the Church of England, who are oppressed by the Confessional and other doctrines and practices of the Romish clergy"; and this Evangelical clergyman calls attention to two indubitable facts—"one, that sensible progress in Ritualistic and Romish practices and doctrines has been made during late years, and is gathering strength daily; the other, that certain passages in the Book of Common Prayer (which have been clearly defined) have been found to promote such practices and doctrines, and must in some way be removed." But Mr. Bligh despairs of the reforms he desires to see carried out, and pictures the Church of England as having "constantly round its neck a mill-stone, which ere long will drag it into the depths."

The Upper House of Convocation has appointed a committee to inquire "into the claims of the body calling itself the Reformed Episcopal Church of England"; but as the Bishop of St. Asaph warned his brother prelates, "they would get very little help indeed from establishing the fact that the persons ministering in this body had not been episcopally ordained." Such an inquiry, however successful, will avail little to reconcile the laity to a style of worship repugnant to their feelings and habits. Meanwhile, the heretical movement grows in strength, and its ministers are at work in the following ten dioceses: St. Albans, Chichester, London, Lichfield, Hereford, Worcester, Lincoln, Bath and Wells, Gloucester and Bristol, and Rochester. Its adherents boast that the Reformed Episcopal Church is "a home for Church people driven from their parishes by Ritualism." It lacks only a little more prestige to grow rapidly, and the recent debate in the Upper House of Convocation will hardly fail to give it a considerable impetus. Its future depends far more on the wisdom and discretion of those who direct it—especially from their absence of assumptions and imitation of Episcopal practices—than upon aught else. Such a "schism" as the prelates of the Church as established by law call it, will be a more effectual weapon against sacerdotalism in the Church than legislative enactments, and may pave the way for that natural division of Churchmen according to their "selective affinities" which is sure to follow, if it does not precede, disestablishment.

ON THE RELATIONS WHICH EXISTED BETWEEN CHURCH AND STATE AFTER THE CONVERSION OF CONSTANTINE.

THIS is a vast subject, and would require a volume, or rather many volumes, to treat it adequately. I must confine myself to a single aspect of the question. It shall be the spirit of persecution which the Union of Church and State under Constantine and his successors in the Roman Empire fostered and encouraged.

Before going further I should wish to guard myself against all possibility of being misunderstood. It is no part of my present purpose to argue against the union of Church and State upon abstract grounds. I am by no means prepared to say that such union or alliance, upon any possible terms whatsoever, is necessarily wrong in principle, or would prove mischievous in practice. I take humbler ground than that of the theologian or metaphysician. I wish to look at the matter purely from the point of view of an ecclesiastical historian. Taking the two periods of Church history with which I am best acquainted, namely, the general history of the Christian Church for the first four or five centuries, and the history of the Church of England since the Reformation, I say without hesitation, and as the solemn and deliberate conviction of my mind, my judgment, and my conscience, that I cannot conceive or imagine anything more injurious to the best, by which I mean the spiritual interests of the religion of the Lord Jesus Christ, than those particular relations between Church and State which were inaugurated by the era of Constantine, and that policy towards the Church of God in England begun by Henry VIII. and continued by his successors, which has given us that thing which is best described as the "Church of England as by law established."

Remembering the circumscribed space in

which I must confine my remarks, I enter at once upon the subject of discussion. In this, as always, when I am able to do so, I shall go direct to the original sources of information.

The historian Sozomen, in a few important sentences, describes the radical change which passed over Christianity by the union of Church and State under Constantine. He shows how, as soon as Christians ceased to be persecuted by the State, the dominant, or Catholic party employed the whole power of the State to persecute their fellow Christians.

He is describing the condition of things shortly after the Council of Nice:—

Although much zeal was shown by the Arian party in the defence of their doctrines, by holding disputations, and in other ways, they had not, as yet, formed themselves into a sect, or assumed any distinctive name. There was intercommunion between them and all other Christians, except the Novatians, the people called the Phrygians, the Valentinians, the Marcionites, the Paulians, and a few others.

Against all these the Emperor enacted a law, by which their places of worship were taken from them, and given to the Catholic Church. They were forbidden to assemble together either in public, or even in private houses. He deemed it better that they should unite with the Universal Church. The effect of this law has been that the memorial of these sects has well-nigh perished.

But in the times of the Emperors before Constantine, all who worshipped Christ, although they might differ in opinion amongst themselves, were accounted by the heathen to belong to the same religion, and were all persecuted alike. And they themselves could not inquire too curiously into their mutual differences on account of their common calamities. Thus it was that they formed separate churches without any difficulty, and even when their numbers were small, they were enabled to hold together.

But the enactment of this law prevented their holding any public assemblies, and the bishops and clergy in every city watched them far too closely to allow of their meeting in private. And thus it came about that most of them, through fear, joined the Catholic Church. Those who still adhered to their former opinions gradually died off, and left no successors, for they were not allowed either to meet together, or openly to give instruction in their religious tenets.

And even from the beginning, most of the other sects had but few followers, either on account of the mischievous nature of their doctrines, or the ignorance and foolishness of their teachers. But it was different with the Novatians. The excellence of their clergy, their agreement with the Catholic Church in doctrines relating to the Divine nature, their numbers, which had always been considerable and still continued to be so, all combined to prevent the law pressing upon them with any very great severity.

The Montanists also suffered under the same penalties as the other sects in all the other provinces of the Empire, except in Phrygia and the neighbouring nations; further, from the time of Montanus downwards, they have existed in great multitudes and still continue extremely numerous.*

From this single page of Sozomen, carefully weighed in all its bearings, there is more knowledge to be gained both of the Anti-Nicene and the Post-Nicene Church, of the relation which one held to the other, and of both to the State, than from a whole library of modern works, treating of the same subjects.

We feel inclined to ask: Could it be the same religion whose clergy encouraged and put in force this persecuting law of Constantine, as that whose Divine Founder said, "My Kingdom is not of this world," and whose great apostle rejoiced that "whether of envy and strife, or whether of goodwill, Christ was preached," so only He was preached as the Saviour of the World?

I feel thankful that by no flight of a vivid imagination can I realise the idea of St. Paul, after his conversion, bursting into and dispersing, by the aid of the myrmidons of the law, a Montanist congregation gathered together to worship Christ; or St. Peter applying to an unbaptized monarch for power to drive a schismatic or heretical bishop into banishment. Prelacy in subsequent ages, in union with the State, allying itself with worldly power, leaning upon an arm of flesh, corruptly and wickedly wielding the temporal sword, has, alas, made us only too familiar with such ideas and such principles.

Sozomen, we have seen, was of opinion that the laws of the Roman State, promulgated under the influence of the dominant idea of the duty of restraining and punishing heretics and schismatics by the civil sword, did not press with any great severity against such Nonconformists as the Novatians. With what vigour they must have been enforced against other Dissenters we may perhaps imagine by remembering the accounts which Sozomen himself, and his fellow-historian Socrates, give of the not infrequent persecutions of the Novatians themselves, of the confiscation and destruction of their religious edifices, and the banishment of their bishops and pastors. And if, upon occasion, the Novatians were allowed to live in peace, we must seek for the explanation of such an unwonted state of things in the personal character and sense of justice, not of the leading prelates, but of such emperors as Constantine and Theodosius.

* Sozom. H. E. 11. 32

The bishops, speaking of them as a class, were, I fear, of a not very dissimilar type from our own English sixteenth-century State prelates, who, as Mr. Froude tells us, thirsted for the blood of the survivors of the Roman Catholic bishops who had been thrown into prison on the accession of Elizabeth. And, as Mr. Froude also shows, the Protestant State bishops were only prevented from embreuing their hands in the blood of their Catholic Episcopal brethren, by the greater moderation of their sovereign lady and mistress, Elizabeth.

There is surely one lesson which must be drawn by any philosophic mind from these teachings of history. It is that the rulers of the Church of God ought strictly to confine themselves, and to be strictly confined by the State, to the exercise of spiritual power and jurisdiction only.

Speaking as a minister of Christ, I should of course add, as the complement of this, that the Church ought to watch vigilantly and guard jealously against any and every encroachment of the State upon his purely spiritual functions, against even the very slightest interference with them. She owes this to her Divine Head.

When Christians who were supported by the State persecuted their fellow Christians, as we have seen they did, it will not be supposed that the lately dominant heathen came off scatheless. In fact, with respect to the persecution of the heathen by the Christian Emperors, advised and instigated by the prelates, I will only say that the extant writings of the fourth and fifth centuries are absolutely replete with evidence that it was so. I rise from the perusal of the literature of the age of Constantine and his immediate successors with the irresistible conviction that the great prelates, and other ecclesiastical dignitaries, were absolutely intoxicated with their good fortune, or their good luck, in having the dread master of a hundred legions on their side. To use a homely expression, they lost their heads. They were unable to guide themselves with discretion under the altered circumstances in which they found themselves. The gratitude of the nominally Christian Court party to Constantine surpassed all bounds and limits of reason. They made him their earthly god. They set up his image upon a porphyry pillar. They burnt incense and lamps before it. They addressed prayers to it, and made supplicatory litanies in its presence, that he, whose image it was, would deliver them from impending evils.*

These are the statements of a Christian historian; and though he has been denounced, and probably with truth, as a heretic, he has given irrefragable proofs of his trustworthiness and fearless honesty.

And, if we are startled at such things, it is only momentarily. Manners and customs may vary, but the spirit of Erastianism, the giving to Caesar the things of God, the spirit of a worldly ecclesiasticism is, in every age, the same. Given a State-Church, and endow it with wealth, and earthly rank, and worldly power, and you will find its prelates, in the age of Constantine, burning incense to the image of their patron; in the age of the 8th Harry of England, taking a murderer and adulterer for their Supreme Head on earth in spiritual things; in the age of James II., speaking of a ridiculous pedant's accession to the throne as "the sun shining in his strength," and calling him "that sanctified Person who, under God, is the immediate Author of their true happiness"; and in the age of Victoria, taking a most solemn oath that they "hold all the spiritualities of their bishoprics only of Her Majesty." Is it not high time for Christians, to whom the honour of their Lord and God and Saviour is dear, to sink all minor differences amongst themselves, and to unite to sweep away for ever from the face of God's earth that most loathsome of all conceivable abominations, a Church Establishment controlled in spiritual things by the powers of the world, and guided, even in things pertaining to God and Christ, by the maxims of worldly policy and the exigencies of Statecraft? How long, O Lord! How long!

THOMAS W. MOSSMAN.

* Οὗτος ὁ θεομάρτυς καὶ τὴν κωνσταντίνου εἰκόνα τὴν ἐπὶ τοῦ πορθουμένου κίονος ἱσταμένην βυσσίδι ἰδασκεσθαι καὶ λυχνόκαται καὶ θυμιάσαι τιμῶν, καὶ εὐχὰς προσάγειν ὡς θεῷ, καὶ ἀποτροπάζουσιν ἱκετηρίας τῶν δειλῶν ἐπιτελεῖν, τοὺς χριστιανοὺς κατηγορεῖν.—Philostorgius, lib. ii. c. 18. I should have hesitated to quote Philostorgius had not these statements of his applied to the Arian as well as to the orthodox Court prelates, and had they not been fully borne out by the notes of the learned editor of the Geneva edition of this historian, and to some extent by my own reading. Besides, in estimating the honesty of Philostorgius we can never forget that to him alone we owe the knowledge of the dishonesty of his own party in the matter of the *Homoionism*.

SCOTTISH CHURCH NOTES.

(From our own Correspondent.)

During all last week and part of this, the United Presbyterian Synod has been holding its sittings in Edinburgh. It has met in the Free Church Assembly Hall. When that hall is occupied by its owners, admission to the public is by ticket, and the galleries are usually well filled by spectators. The United Presbyterians, on the other hand, make all welcome to attend; and the result is that on ordinary days, if I may judge from the testimony of my own eyes, nobody, or next to nobody, cares to be present. It was different, however, on those evenings which were occupied with the great heresy trial of Mr. Fergus Ferguson. A row is attractive everywhere, from the House of Commons upwards, and in the prospect of that the hall was crowded to its utmost capacity.

If one may judge from the reports, the *Order of the Synod* is not yet in a state of ideal perfection. The court is constituted on a thoroughly democratic basis, and every one man is as good as another. When a question arises, therefore, about any point of form, the multitude of individuals prepared to offer counsel is portentous, and a good deal of precious time is lost in consequence. In this connection, the contrast with the Free Assembly is striking. There the arrangements are so far parliamentary. There are two sides of the House—the Liberal and the Reactionary. And the front benches to the right and left of the moderator are by common consent assigned to the leaders of the two parties. It is always easy, therefore, to single out Dr. Rainy, and it is always just as easy to spot Dr. Begg. Besides, it has been the invariable rule of the Church of Scotland—Established and Free—to appoint the recognised leader of the majority for the time being to the responsible office of "Convener of the Arrangements Committee." This office makes him, during its sittings, the leader of the House; and when any block occurs, his interference is accepted as naturally as would be that of Sir Stafford Northcote in the House of Commons. The arrangement works admirably, and the U.P.'s would do well to take a leaf out of the Free-Church book in this respect. If men of weight would interpose at the outset of a wrangle about forms, business would be expedited.

The Rev. David Croom has been acting as president or moderator. He is one of the ministers of Edinburgh, and as such is much respected. But otherwise he is in no wise notable. His proposer vouched for his being a sound disestablishment man.

Some of the statistical facts given into the Synod may be interesting. In 1875 its members in full communion were 170,298. In 1876 there were 172,170. In 1877, they had risen to 173,354. Eight new congregations have been added during the year, the whole number of congregations being now 534. The total income of the Church for 1877 has been 379,079*l*. This is somewhat less than that for 1876, but the deficiency is much more than accounted for by the cutting off of its English offshoot. It is now a thoroughly Scottish denomination, and in every way one of the most vigorous branches of the Presbyterian Church.

As I have hinted, the great event of the session has been the Glasgow Heresy trial. Mr. Ferguson has won golden opinions for himself personally by his behaviour during the process. Recognising the fact that those who differ from him and who have thought it right to prosecute him, are probably just as intelligent and conscientious as himself, he has not sought to pose as a martyr, or sulked at them because they spoke against his doctrines or tried to pick personal quarrels with them because they insisted on his being called to the bar of the Church to which he belongs. In a quiet, dignified, good-tempered way he has met the crisis, and has thus given an example to other "heretics" which they might find it to their advantage to imitate.

I am not going into the case here. So far as I have mastered it, it still seems to have a good deal of a logomachy. Mr. Ferguson has been trying to make the theology of the New Testament fit into his philosophy, and I don't think he has succeeded, or is likely to succeed. What he really holds is yet quite undetermined. So far as his published statement enables one to judge, he seems to have abandoned the orthodox doctrine of the Atonement and adopted the current Broad Church view (and this is the only point on which the Synod has pronounced); but then at their bar at the eleventh hour he made declarations and explanations which appeared to be quite inconsistent with what he had formerly taught, and the House went to the vote on an issue which was anything but definite and clear.

Professor Calderwood moved the condemnation of his published teaching, but added a rider proposing that a committee should be appointed to confer with Mr. Ferguson, and to see whether, with the help of his explanations, a *modus vivendi* between him and the Church might yet be found. Mr. Ferguson's defenders were not prepared to accept this as the solution of the case. They were already satisfied as to his essential soundness, and they moved accordingly. Four hundred and fifty-two members took part in the division, and of these 330 voted with Dr. Calderwood and 122 against him.

A correspondent of the *Daily Review* has analysed this vote, and brought out, among others, one very curious result. He shows that the older ministers voted with Dr. Calderwood to a man. Of those ordained before 1839, twenty-seven took part in the division, and not one of these gave his voice for Mr. Ferguson. On the other hand, of those ordained since 1870, forty-seven voted in the minority. Possibly these remarkable facts are to be explained in this way, that the younger men know Mr. Ferguson personally, and love him. But if it is true, as it is scarcely possible to doubt, that he is on the Broad Church rails, the support which he is getting from the rising generation of ministers is somewhat ominous.

One other notable incident is worth referring to. It is this—that a Committee of Synod have had the Confession of Faith "through hands," as we say in Scotland, and have awaited the adoption of a report which is interpreted by the Liberalistic section of the Church as having relaxed the terms of subscription. I don't, for myself, see that the Broad Church gentlemen have any great cause to throw up their caps. The explanations offered by the committee are all in the line of such beliefs as have existed among the soundest men in Scotland for generations—and the crowing which has been indulged in (by, for example, the Rev. J. S. Mill, of Leith, and others, in the *Daily Review* of Monday morning) proves nothing, I fear, but this, that in certain quarters there exists profound theological ignorance. Only fancy a man, pretending to be a leader of opinion in Scotland, writing as if only now it were made lawful to offer Christ as a Saviour to every man! I am old enough to have heard Chalmers explain in fervid words what the Gospel means, and I never heard from any lips "freer" preaching than from his.

The Free Church Assembly meets on Thursday in Glasgow. It, too, is looking forward to its heresy trials. Professor Smith has published two pamphlets in his own defence. Dr. Marcus Dods is more reticent. The points raised are these—(1) Whether it is lawful to criticise the Bible in the manner of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, and (2) Whether a view of inspiration can be tolerated which makes only those portions of the Scriptures of authority that are recognised to be Divine by the inner light of the spiritual man.

It seems strange when the Nonconformist Churches are so disturbed that the Establishment is so peaceful and still. Anybody, however, may see the reason who looks into a volume of sermons just published by Dr. Storey, of Roseneath. These sermons contain heresies enough to sink any Nonconformist ship. But, as I have often told you, the Establishment does not prosecute its heretics—it rewards them. There is no man living who has done more for Broad Churchism in Scotland than Principal Tulloch, and his Church shows that he is the man it delights to honour by placing him, as it is to do on Thursday, in the Moderator's chair of the General Assembly!

THE PRIMATE ON THE IRISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH.—Speaking at a gathering at Lambeth Palace on Monday the Archbishop of Canterbury referred to the experience of the Church of Ireland since the passing of the Act of Disestablishment. There was, he remarked, difficulty in dealing with the prospects of the Irish Church, because even although seven years had passed, the whole thing was still in a state of transition, and the Church could scarcely now be called disestablished. It would not be until the present generation had passed away that the Church would be thrown entirely on the new system. One thing had certainly followed from the disestablishment, and that was, that the laity had got a very powerful influence in the disestablished Church, which he did not believe many of the disestablishment promoters much appreciated. For his own part, he was glad to see it, although he saw a danger in it if encouraged too much. The new system very greatly affected the class of men who were to form the clergy of the Church. He believed it to be for the good of all that the Church should have highly-educated men of a superior social position for the ministry. He believed that the Irish Church would surmount all the difficulties which stood in its way.

Literature.

PROFESSOR DOWDEN'S "STUDIES IN LITERATURE."

Professor Dowden tells us in his preface that he only carries out a purpose entertained from the first in issuing these essays in a collected form. But we fail to perceive any such underlying plan, or relation of one to another of these contributions, as to justify for them a place apart from the usual class of "Miscellaneous Essays." "Walt Whitman" and the "Transcendental Movement in Literature" are not so far apart as are the "Prose Works of Wordsworth" and some "Recent Writers of French Verse"—Baudelaire and the rest. The volume has the unity which a series of articles written at different times by a purely literary student, of wide reading and catholic tastes, keenly interested in all the most prominent topics, and desirous to trace out their relations to antecedent phenomena, would necessarily have; and in spite of Professor Dowden's claims this is all the unity we can perceive in the book.

Taken as "Miscellaneous Essays" the volume is full of interest. It exhibits distinctly two currents of thought and influence, which are here to some extent harmonised—the first is that of traditionary culture, and the second that of sympathy with purely revolutionary tendencies. Professor Dowden in style is pronouncedly academic, but he does not swear by the proprieties, and even thinks Walt Whitman a phenomenon of such serious import as to be worth a most careful and studious analysis. He deals with the French erotic school in a spirit of conciliatory eclecticism; he finds that Baudelaire, for example, had an ideal of beauty and calm which was, after all, the source of his unrest and his poetry. "Baudelaire never quite parts from a higher self kept in reserve, is not for a moment satisfied with the flowers or fruits of evil, and he is still haunted and waylaid by the ideal beauty and calm, which by contrast becomes the source of so much of his bitterness." Yet Professor Dowden confesses that "an elaborated passion he held was unfit matter for poetry." Paradox of this kind plays so prominent a part in these essays that now and then we confess ourselves wholly unable to find a point of reconciliation satisfactory to ourselves. Indeed, Professor Dowden's eclecticism is sometimes to blame for the feeling that will come over us of reading too wide and varied to have been completely assimilated.

Most readers, however, will be more interested in his treatment of such subjects as "George Eliot," "Mr. Tennyson and Mr. Browning," and "Walter Savage Landor." On all of these Professor Dowden writes neatly; but we fancy he was right to modify a certain statement about one of the characters in "Daniel Deronda," which we regarded as the most perversely short-sighted that we had ever read. We do not think that, in spite of great care and labour, he very satisfactorily analyses or accounts for the mingled strain of self-restraint and violence in W. S. Landor. Nor do we regard his criticism of Mr. Browning as being by any means the best that we have recently had. After Mr. Hutton and Mr. Nettleship there is a very peculiar air of superficiality about it. Perhaps the best of the essays are those on "Victor Hugo" and "Walt Whitman," for Professor Dowden needs something high and craggy to break his mind upon, and is always best when his intellect is placed in a position of resistance. Not that we mean a merely intellectual opposition, but when his subject, by its mere force and power, awes him into something of extra reverence, and when the labour of his critical faculty is most emphasised to us. He is too facile and too nimble very often—and is over apt to glide into neat and plausible paradoxes. We would not deny—nor would any fair-minded critic for a moment deny—to Professor Dowden the credit of having written very excellent and lucid passages of criticism. But his standpoint is sometimes indefinite and his æsthetic principles too elastic. When he deals with minor French poets of the erotic school, or when he attempts to catch and exhibit the principles that have governed great movements, he is unsatisfactory from the same cause—that he rests upon first ideas too confidently. In fairness to him, we shall present to our readers a few passages which have particularly struck us. The first shall be from the essay on "The Transcendental Movement" on Mr. Emerson:—

The transcendentalism of America seems to show traces of the action of the climate. Mr. Emerson is a transcendentalist whose nervous energy has been exhausted

and whose viscera and animal spirits have been burnt away (1). His short sentences scintillate and snap like sparks from an electrical conductor, and each gives a separate tingle to the nerves. He loves light better than warmth, and lacks the strong humanity of Carlyle. His nerves do not concentrate and contain the Divine force; they represent qualities, therefore they do not claim our worship and obedience, we retain the independence of our citizenship in the spiritual commonwealth. Or we obey and worship and then go forward, since it is not permitted to us to forfeit the indefeasible freedom of our advance. The hero points to a region beyond himself.

The following is given by way of contrast on George Eliot's humour:—

George Eliot's humour allies itself with her intellect on the one hand, and with her sympathies and moral perceptions on the other. The grotesque in human character is reclaimed from the province of the humorous by her affections, when that is possible, and is shown to be a pathetic form of beauty. The pale, brown-eyed weaver, gazing out from his cottage-door with blurred vision, or poring with miserly devotion over his golden hoard, touches us but does not make us smile. The comedy of incident, the farcical, lies outside her province; once or twice, for reasons that appear hardly adequate, the comedy of incident was attempted, and the result was not successful. The humour of George Eliot usually belongs to her entire conception of a character, and cannot be separated from it. The humorous effects are secured by letting her mind drop sympathetically into a level of lower intelligence or duller moral perceptions, and by the conscious presence at the same time of the higher self. The humorous impression exists only in the qualified organs of perception which remain at the higher—the normal—point of view. What had been merely an undulation of matter, when it touches the prepared surface of the retina breaks into light. By the fire of the Rainbow Inn, the butcher and the farrier, the parish clerk and the deputy clerk, puff their pipes with an air of severity, staring at one another as if a bet were depending on the first man who winked, while the humbler beer-drinkers "keep their eyelids down and rub their hands across their mouths as if the draughts of beer were a funeral duty, attended with embarrassing sadness." The slow talk about the red Durham is conducted with a sense of grave responsibility on both sides. It is we, who are looking on unobserved, who experience a rippling over of our moral nature with manifold laughter; it is to our lips the smile rises—a smile which is expressive not of any acute access of risibility, but of a voluminous enjoyment, a mass of mingled feeling, partly tender, partly pathetic, partly humorous.

Now, this passage is admirable in itself, but it strikes us that it would be just as fair to say of that "mass of mingled feeling" stirred in us "who are looking on unobserved," that it results from a sense of responsibility and separation of intellectual moods and all the processes of imaginative attachment, as to say that it is secured pure and simple by "letting the mind drop sympathetically into a level of lower intelligence or duller moral perceptions." The following—which shall be our last quotation—is very good on Mr. Tennyson's reverence for law:—

Mr. Tennyson finds law present throughout all nature, but there is no part of nature on which he dwells with so much satisfaction upon its presence as in human society. No one so largely as Mr. Tennyson has represented in art the new thoughts and feelings which form the impassioned side of the modern conception of progress. His imagination is for ever haunted by "the vision of the world, and all the wonders that would be." But the hopes and aspirations of Mr. Tennyson are not those of the radical or movement character. He is in all his poems Conservative as well as Liberal. No idea, perhaps, occupies a place in his poems so central as that of the progress of the race. This it is which lifts out of his idle dejection and selfish dreaming the speaker in "Locksley Hall." This it is which suggests an apology for the phantoms of the "Day Dream." This it is which arms the tempted with a weapon of defence, and the tempter with a deadlier weapon of attack in the "Two Voices." This it is which gives a broad basis of meditative thought, to the idyl which tells of the Passing of Arthur, and renders it something more than a glorious fable. This it is which forms the closing prophecy of "The Princess," the full confession of the poet's faith. This it is which is heard in the final chords of the "In Memoriam," changing the music from a minor to a major key.

Professor Dowden, we doubt not, will find many readers for this volume. If he is inclined to be a little loose and rhetorical, that will readily be forgiven him, in view of his fine instincts for the beautiful and his desire to quicken the feeling for a true and elevating art.

THOMAS AIRD.*

This volume will have a particular interest for a considerable circle, who will be glad to learn more of the life and personality of the author of the powerful and original poem, "The Devil's Dream on Mount Aksebek." Thomas Aird's was distinctly an original mind; but he was deficient in some of the qualities that go to make a great poet. His sympathies were not wide, and, in spite of "The Devil's Dream," which was exceptional, he loved the homely and secluded rather than the wild, grand, and sublime. In a word, the affections and the fancy were more spontaneous in him than were the passions and the imagination. He never, indeed, seems to have felt what love

* *Studies in Literature*, 1789-1877. By EDWARD DOWDEN, LL.D., Author of "Shakespeare: his Mind and Art, &c." (C. Kegan Paul and Co.)

* *The Poetical Works of Thomas Aird*. Fifth Edition. With a Memoir. By the Rev. A. JARDINE WALLACE, B.A. (William Blackwood and Sons.)

was—and that itself is a serious slice cut out of a poet's experience, viewed as the spokesman and interpreter of the emotions which are the rough material of song and of the drama. Conceive a dramatic poet—or, indeed, a lyrical poet—of the first rank, without experience of love! The thing is impossible. Thomas Aird was a beautiful, wise, and patient spirit; but he was a poet of most limited sphere—and, indeed, there seems to have been almost a special propriety in Mr. Thomas Carlyle, his early friend and life-long correspondent, firing off to him some of his rebukeful pet ideas against the rhyming art, as we find him doing in the first portion of the following letter, which Mr. Jardine Wallace has extracted from the correspondence put at his disposal:—

I have already made considerable inroads into the "Tragedy of Wold," and other pieces. I find everywhere a healthy breath as of mountain breezes, a native manliness, veracity, and geniality which, though the poetic form, as you may know, is less acceptable to me in these sad times than the plain prose one, is for ever welcome in all forms, and is, withal, so rare just now as to be doubly and trebly precious. But your delineations of reality and fact are so fresh, clear, and genuine when I have met you in that field, that I always grudge to see such a man employ himself in fiction and imagination, when the "reality," however real, has to suffer so many abatements before it can come to me. Reality, very ugly and ungainly often, is nevertheless, as I say always, God's unwritten poem, which it needs precisely that a human genius should write and make it intelligible (for it would then be beautiful, divine, and have all high and highest qualities), to his less gifted brothers! But what then? Gold is golden, however you coin it. I know gold when I see it: one may hope for the rest—"a wilful man must have his way." And, indeed, I know very well I am in a minority of one with this precious literary creed of mine, so cannot quarrel with your faith and practice in that respect. Long may you live to employ those fine gifts in the way your own conscience and deliberated insight suggests!

Your new lodging, commanding a view of Troqueer and the river, must be a welcome improvement on the former, which was of the street, streetish; the very sound of the *Cauld* is a grateful song to one's heart, whispering of rusticities and actualities; singing a kind of lullaby to all follies and evil and fantastic thoughts in one! You speak of my getting back to Scotland: such an imagination dwells always in the bottom of my heart. But, alas! I begin often to surmise that it is but perhaps imaginary after all; that I am a grown pilgrim and sojourner, and must continue such till I end it. That shall be as it pleases God.

I get very ill on with all kinds and degrees of work in late days; in fact, the aspect of the world, the one end of it to the other, especially this last year, is hateful and dismal, not to say terrible and alarming, and the many miserable meanings of it strike me dumb. The "general Bankruptcy of Humbug" I call it; economics, religions alike, declaring themselves to be *Mens Mens*; all public arrangements among men falling, as one huge *confessed* imposture, into bottomless insolvency, nature everywhere answering, "No effects." This is not a pleasant consummation; one knows not how to speak of this all at once, even if it had a clear meaning for one. Good be with you, dear Aird. Tell my sister you have heard from me, and that she must write.—Yours very truly,

T. CARLYLE.

Which letter, characteristic as it is, nevertheless suggests the remark how astonishing it is that Carlyle—who has in this so severely rebuked the "able editor," can himself so systematically re-thresh the old straw. More to our purpose it will be, however, to present in outline the main facts of Aird's life. He was born at Bowden in Roxburghshire in 1802. His father was a portioner or yeoman, an anti-burgher, pious, and strict in observance of the Sabbath, yet on week-nights unbending and enjoying greatly the singing of old Scotch songs. Thomas was educated at the parish school, and while yet a youth went to the University of Edinburgh, where Thomas Carlyle was a fellow student. His parents had designed him for the ministry, but he soon came to feel that his shyness and embarrassment in public speaking would stand in his way, and began to view literature as his true destination. He published a tragedy named "Murtzouffe" in 1826, and shortly after a prose work titled "Religious Characteristics." He received high praise from Professor Wilson, and he was thus led to contribute to *Blackwood*. Henceforth he was a steady member of that brotherhood. After a few years he became editor of the *Dumfries Herald*—a post which he held for twenty-six years, retiring from it only that he might enjoy the quiet and rest that he longed for. "Like his own Frank Sylvan, he lived much in the open air, and his notable figure, which attracted the attention of the stranger, proclaimed the athlete of younger days. But the active frame was united to a high-strung nervous temperament which unfitted him for continuous labour and made him peculiarly sensitive to various forms of suffering."

Some of his pictures of the life amongst which he had spent his days are very faithful and touched with quaint grace. This is one:—

After our family devotions are over I usually saunter forth to see the night. How still the stillness of the midsummer evening. The villagers are all abed. The last tremblings of the curlew's wild bravura have just died away over the distant fells into the dim and silent night. Nothing is now heard but the momentary hum

of the beetle wheeling past, and softened in the distance, the creak of the rail from the thick dewy clover of the darkening valley. The bat is also abroad, and the heavy moths and the owl musing over the corn fields; but instead of breaking they only solemnise the stillness. The antique houses of the hamlet stand as in dream, and the trees gathered round the embowered church as in a swooning trance. In such a night and in such an hour the church bell, untouched of mortal hands, has been heard to toll drowsily. I feel a softening and sinking of the spirit, and hear the beating of my heart as if I were afraid of something, I know not what, just about to come out of the yawning stillness. Hurriedly I glide into the house and bolt the door, and when I lie down and compose myself on my bed the fears of death creep over me.

The following passage we must find space to give, indicating, as it does, great familiarity with certain wild birds and great power over them—

It is my first business, when I step out in the morning, to call on Robin, and he comes and sits on my hand, and eats his breakfast of oatmeal cake broken into crumbs. With all his habits of familiarity it is not easy to get Robin to do this. We have also at Mountain Hall a hen chaffinch or shilfa, whose tameness is even more peculiar than Bob's. She was bred close beside the house in 1863. All last winter, and especially in spring, when the natural food of birds get scanty, she was very much about the door, and ventured often into the lobby. She was gradually brought to take food from the hand; and when she was hatching and came down to me from her nest, eager for supplies, I put the bit of cake in my mouth, and she flew straight to my face and took it. When her young were out, she took none of the cake to them in the nest, but fed them with the small green caterpillars from the leaves. When the fledglings had got to the garden, however, she followed me assiduously for the cake, hovering about my face till I got it into my mouth, and then made off with it to her young ones. I may remark here that oatmeal bread is preferred by the birds to every other kind; there is much flint in the oat for the bones, and the instinct of birds may like it accordingly. When her brood was dismissed to take charge of themselves, Tibbie (for such is the name we have given our little friend) continued to be very familiar with the people of the house, and often when I was leaning on the gate, the breadth of a field away from our avenue, she came and sat down on the gate beside me. Once, but only once, she allowed me to touch her with my forefinger. After a proper interval, she dressed up her old nest (not a very common thing), and brought out a second brood in it. About the middle of July, Tibbie began to be much away from us, yet visiting us from time to time. For the cake she seemed no longer to care; I suppose she was getting food on the fields she liked better. I have seen the flock of chaffinches repeatedly in our upper grounds, and have noticed, in accordance with White of Selborne's observations, that most of them are hens. One day lately, when I was by a bit of paling up in one of the fields, I saw Tibbie detach herself from a flock of finches on a high tree; and down she sat on the paling beside me. I offered her some crumbs, but she declined them; her object was pure friendly recognition. After she had sat awhile, and I had bantered her for her faithlessness to the kind old door, she answered with a chirp and rejoined the sisterhood on the tree.

As the much-loved member of a very popular and interesting circle, which included Professor Wilson, James Hogg, De Quincey, D. M. Moir (Delta), Professor Aytoun, and others of equal note, Thomas Aird would claim attention. But, independently of this, he made one or two contributions to literature which fill a place of their own, and entitle him to a niche apart. We have spoken of "The Devil's Dream on Mount Akebeck," which is full of a fine suggestiveness, but we must not forget to mention "The Old Bachelor," which is pervaded by a true feeling for nature, has bits of exquisite description, many wise remarks, and the flavour throughout of a quaint, kindly observant individuality, which was as much a stranger to cynicism as to strife. For, though Thomas Aird spent the greater part of his life as a newspaper editor, and did once or twice give blows that took great effect as much from their unexpectedness as from their force, he was really a literary recluse, a shy, meditative nature-lover, whose place was rather among the trees and flowers and streams than in the busy throngs of towns and cities. The pervading influence of his books is precisely that of his life—quiet, insinuating, sweetly genial. We can therefore cordially recommend the volume, which has that charm of fitness and completeness which a short and well-toned biography, more than anything else, in our idea, always imparts.

HOLLAND.*

Mr. Charles Wood is certainly a well-meaning man, but apparently a very verdant one. Actually he writes as if he had discovered Holland, and seems quite unaware that it is the first place to which an Englishman pays a visit before he takes longer flights; as, for instance, to Switzerland or the Rhine. "Holland," he tells us, "is to many of us as much a sealed book as are the bush ranges of Australia or the vast prairies of California!" Mr. Wood's travelling companion appears, if that be pos-

* *Through Holland*. By CHARLES WOOD. With Fifty-seven Illustrations. (London: Richard Bentley and Son.)

* *Holland and Her Heroes*. By MARY ALBERT. (London: Kegan Paul and Co.)

sible, to have been still more verdant than Mr. Wood himself. The time for the trip was a week. Mr. Wood's friend accordingly had been packing up the greater part of the day "two portmanteaus, a bag, a hat-box, a fishing-basket, three rugs, a mackintosh and a great-coat, five changes of outer raiment, fifteen of inner, three boxes of pills, four ounces of quinine and iron, a guide-book, a camp-stool, and an umbrella." Mr. Wood laughed at his friend, and got him to be a little rational; but he is utterly unconscious of his own absurdity in making a big book out of his own travels in Holland, when he has really nothing new to say, and has not a tithe of the information to communicate to be found in the worst guide-book ever penned. It is ludicrous to read his recommendation of the long sea passage direct from London to Rotterdam, when, as every schoolboy knows, you may get from the mouth of the Thames to that of the Maas in a few hours. And then he can only recommend this trip when the boats are running, as if it was only at rare intervals the boats of the General Steam Navigation Company were able to attempt such a hazardous enterprise! Mr. Wood evidently fancies he is a Cameron or a Stanley, and ought to be received with open arms by the Royal Geographical Society, whereas he has only gone over the beaten track, and does not tell the ordinary Englishman a word he has not read before. Even when Mr. Wood goes into a less untrodden district—that is, as far as Englishmen are concerned—and podders, in his small way, amongst the dead cities of the Zuyder Zee, he only reminds us how immeasurably inferior he is in his knowledge of his subject, and in power of description to M. Ravard, whose charming volumes are familiar to every cultivated Englishman, and, indeed, may be considered as standard works. So profound is Mr. Wood's ignorance, in spite of here and there a quotation from Motley, that at Leiden he has not a word to say of Robinson and the Pilgrim Fathers—of whom one always thinks when one visits that dear old town; nor has he a reference to any of the great professors who at one time made it the resort of hundreds of students from England and Scotland. He gets quite ridiculously sentimental at Utrecht, where he asks his "dear Virginia to imagine the delicious scent and shade those limes must give forth as you tread the avenues with your beloved Paul, not arm-in-arm, but arms and hands more cunningly disposed," and does not seem to have been aware that at Utrecht you may still see the house where Adrian the Pope was born, and that it is the headquarters of the Old Catholics, of whom of late we have heard so much. Besides, really, as an observer, we cannot give Mr. Wood much credit. You get very good coffee in Holland, the railway travelling is not bad as regards speed, and the *portier* at the hotels is generally a most useful man, at every one's service, and with a good deal of local knowledge, of which the stranger thankfully avails himself, indeed here we are at direct issue with Mr. Wood. It is quite funny the way in which he reasons. For instance, take the following:—

There are always two English churches in Amsterdam—the Established Church of England and the Presbyterian Church of Scotland. The former is very well attended, the latter probably less so.

Why probably less so? We attended that church one Sunday last summer, and thought the congregation a very fair one. We have in the book a good deal altogether about the Bibel Hotel in Amsterdam, and in every word he says of that well-regulated and old-established institution we cordially agree, but Mr. Wood does not seem to be aware that the shop next door is that in which Mr. Bourne tells us our great philosopher Locke bought his writing-paper, and that it remains in our day much in the same state as it was in his. We are aware that Mr. Wood has paid some little attention to Holland. He speaks of his friend's guide-book, and from internal evidence we are bound to believe that he occasionally consulted it, or how otherwise would he have discovered that Potter's "Bull" was at the Hague, that Haarlem was famed for its organ, that Amsterdam is the largest town in Holland, and celebrated for its diamond-cutting? But evidently for a writer on Holland he knows wonderfully little, and that little is certainly not worth reprinting. The advantage of his book is that it is printed in large type, and that it is filled with exquisite little engravings that at once recall to your memory the places represented. Indeed, by means of them and with the addition of an odour *not* of "Araby the blest"—for the Dutch canals have "an ancient and fish-like smell"—and with a little of the sort of bawling one hears at the East-end of London—for the Dutch language is a very harsh one—you can almost fancy yourself down amongst the Dutchmen. These little dark pictures are, however, a little melancholy; but thus they accord with the

whole tone of the volume, which is anything but gay. As he stands on the top of Dordrecht Cathedral, and views the canal below, Mr. Wood writes:—

It was impossible to look down from this glittering height without a shudder, or wonder as to how many unhappy men had hurled themselves into its cold depths—passed in a moment from time to eternity.

Mr. Wood is fond of that kind of thing. As soon as he gets away from the Nore and the evening got dark, instead of lighting up his cigar and having a little chat with his fellow passengers, he talks grandly, like a juvenile Childe Harold, of "that feeling of grandeur, of illimitable space, that sense of eternity and immortality which never fails to take possession of the mind when on the ocean in the dark hours of night."

Miss Albert's little book is in every way quite a contrast to the pretentious volume of Mr. Wood. It simply retells, and in a way calculated to interest the very youngest reader, the story which Motley has told with such power and pathos of the "Rise of the Dutch Republic." It perhaps would have been better had Miss Albert included all Motley's works, and given a juvenile paraphrase, as it were, of some of the leading incidents gathered from the "Life of Barnvelde," the "United Netherlands," and the "Rise of the Dutch Republic." Had she done so, much would have been gained in interest, a little more credit would have been acquired by herself for the art of judicious selection and wide adaptation, and any appearance of unfairness to Mr. Motley by the wholesale appropriation of his studies and researches would have been avoided. As it is, the original work has been so completely served up anew, that in riper years the young reader may not care to peruse it—a thing much to be deprecated, as the wonderful story Mr. Motley tells can never be too often told, and, perhaps, in these days of political reaction, when Englishmen seem dead to the claims of public life, and intent only on pleasure or the pursuit of wealth, it is more incumbent on us than ever to study the lives and imbibe the spirit of the heroic Dutchmen, who saved England and Protestantism here, as they defied and drove back cruel and Catholic Spain. Such books as that of our author are calculated to have a beneficial influence upon the young and rising generation.

ANCIENT AND FOREIGN CLASSICS FOR ENGLISH MASTERS.*

"History, properly so-called, began with Thucydides." Before him there had been chroniclers and story-writers; but the method of these, with their inaccurate narratives from hearsay evidence, he derides; whereas his own work, he tells us, "is designed rather as a possession for ever than as a mere prize composition for a moment." Nor has posterity denied his claim to lasting fame. Macaulay tells us that the sense of his own inferiority to Thucydides did more to put him out of conceit with himself than all the unfavourable comments bestowed upon him by the newspapers and reviews, and other modern writers have fully endorsed his high opinion. We must, therefore, consider Thucydides as a modern, though he lived in the 5th century B.C. His observation of human character; his political dissertations on the questions of the day; the lessons he draws from passing events; all mark him as one of ourselves, and though, perhaps, his style ill bears the condensation necessary to the introduction of his works into this series, students of history may well be induced thereby to go to his writings themselves; and the able author of the little volume before us will be thus repaid for the pains he has evidently bestowed upon it.

The object of the second of these volumes, which is one of the Foreign Classics for English Readers, edited by Mrs. Oliphant, is certainly attained. Petrarch, the man of the world, the ideal lover, and the apostle of literature, speaks to us in our English tongue in intimate letters, and sings to us his undying love. The life of this famous Italian author is of general interest, for though he cannot be called a man of genius, "an ideal passion, an ideal philosophy, an ideal standard of political liberty and virtue, were the characteristics of Petrarch's enthusiastic nature"; and his sincere devotion to literature, his passionate longing for the unity of Italy, would doubtless have withdrawn him "from the path of the crowd" had he never seen Laura. Yet it is to this more than earthly love, of which the writer well says, "his love fed his poetry, and his poetry his love," that he owes his fame. To quote Mr. Reeve once more:—

To me the following lines, which Petrarch inscribed

* *Thucydides*. (William Blackwood and Sons.)
* *Petrarch*. By HENRY REEVE. (William Blackwood and Sons.)

on the first leaf of his favourite manuscript of "Virgil," are more touching than the numerous sonnets he devoted to her memory:—"Laura, illustrious by her virtues, and long celebrated in my songs, first greeted my eyes in the days of my youth the 6th of April, 1327, at Avignon, and in the same city, at the same hour of the 6th of April, but in the year 1348, withdrew from life, whilst I was at Verona, unconscious of my loss. The melancholy truth was made known to me by letters which I received at Parma on the 19th of May. Her chaste and lovely body was interred on the evening of the same day, in the Church of the Minorites; her soul, as I believe, returned to heaven whence it came. To write these lines in bitter memory of this event, and in the place where they will most often meet my eyes, has in it something of a cruel sweetness, lest I forget that nothing more ought in this life to please me, which, by the grace of God, need not be difficult to one who thinks strenuously and manfully of the idle cares, the empty hopes, and the unexpected end of the years that are gone."

We may add—and this the highest praise—that in this interesting little volume we have a vivid picture of Petrarch constantly before our eyes, and that in reading it we forget to think of Mr. Reeve.

SCHOOL BOOKS.

C. Julii Caesaris Commentarii de Bello Gallico Libri Septem. Edited by LEONHARD SCHMITZ, LL.D. (London: William Collins and Co.) Dr. Schmitz has produced a valuable edition of the Gallic war. He has done everything that a school-boy needs for the elucidation of the text and for help in the grammar. The Introduction contains a short life of Caesar; questions are placed at the end of each chapter which serve to direct attention to difficulties in the text which a careless reader might without them miss. Each book has its own grammatical and historical notes.

A First Caesar. An Introduction to Latin Reading and Composition, with Examination Papers. By JOHN STEWART. (London: J. Boulton and Co.) The book is in seven parts. Part I. consists of twenty-nine easy exercises—Latin into English, and English into Latin. The words and constructions are those which occur in the twenty-nine chapters of the first book of Caesar. In Part II. the first four exercises of Part I. are fully parsed. Part III. contains a short syntax, based on Ruddiman's rules, and some important grammar memoranda. Most of the examples to the rules are from the first twenty-nine chapters of Caesar. The learner thus sees the need for, and the application of the rule. Short exercises on the syntax follow. They help to fix the rules more firmly in the mind. All the verbs which occur in the twenty-nine chapters, and are not regularly formed, are classified and given with their principal parts.

The Formation of Raindrops, Hailstones, and Snowflakes. By Professor OSBORNE REYNOLDS, F.R.S.—*The Polarisation of Light*. By WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE, M.A., &c. (London: William Collins and Sons.) These are reports of lectures delivered before the Glasgow Science Association. We place them with school books, not that they are text-books for schools, but because they are full of information which elementary teachers can use, and they are examples of a sound method of teaching.

Practical Exercises on French Conversation, for the Use of Travellers and Students. By C. A. CHARDENAL, B.A. (London: W. Collins, Sons, and Co.) M. Chardenal has produced a really practical grammar and exercise book for teaching colloquial French. It will be found well adapted for class work, and an intelligent traveller imperfectly acquainted with the language would find it a great assistance in hotels and shops in which English is not spoken. A vocabulary and an index of geographical and ethnographical matters close the volume. A few woodcuts illustrate the country, the camp, and military methods. We have no hesitation in recommending this as a thoroughly good school book.

The Pictorial French Grammar for the Use of Children. By MARIN DE LA VOYE. (London: Griffith and Farran.) This is the third thousand of a little book that only needs to be known to become popular. We have much pleasure in contributing to its notoriety. It deserves to be known by mothers and nursery governesses, and little children will be charmed with a grammar that gives them French and pictures together.

SHAKESPEARE SELECT PLAYS:—*A Midsummer Night's Dream*. *Julius Caesar*. Edited by WILLIAM ALDIS WRIGHT, M.A. (Oxford: At the Clarendon Press.) *Shakespeare's Comedy of a Midsummer Night's Dream*. By SAMUEL NEIL. *Shakespeare's Coriolanus*. By JAMES COLVILLE, M.A., &c. (London: William Collins, Sons, and Co.) Both these series of Shakespeare's dramas are deserving of public notice. Mr. Wright continues to do his

work well in every respect. The editors of Collins's series a little overdo their work, notably Mr. Neil, who has encumbered his introduction with superfluous matter. But much latitude must be allowed to a competent and enthusiastic student of Shakespeare.

COLLINS' ADVANCED SCIENCE SERIES:—*Machine Construction*. By EDWARD TOMKINS. Edited by HENRY EVERS, LL.D. Vol. I. text, Vol. II. plates. (London: William Collins, Sons, and Co., 1878.) This is a work on the principles of machine construction, and commences with the most elementary instruction in drawing, passing on to problems of practical geometry, and the applications of these to machines. The text and the drawings were prepared by Mr. Edward Tomkins, who unfortunately did not live to complete his task. Dr. Evers became their editor, and tells us that he "found the plan of the work so clearly and distinctly laid down that to follow it was comparatively easy." The book is entirely technical, and will be found well adapted to its purposes.

The Story of Religion in England. A Book for Young Folk. By BROOKE HERFORD. (London: C. Kegan Paul and Co.) This is an admirable introduction to the Church history of this country. We know no better book to place in the hands of young people. The choice of subjects and the manner of treatment are alike interesting. We hope the volume will have a large circulation.

Catiline, Clodius, and Tiberius. By EDWARD SPENCER BEESLEY. (London: Chapman and Hall.) These memoirs appeared in the *Fortnightly Review*, and attracted much attention at the time. Their author's purpose was, if possible, to reverse the judgment passed by historians on these celebrated Romans. Whether he will succeed with readers generally we cannot say, but we are sure he will make them feel less secure in their old opinions.

BRIEF NOTICES.

The Human Eye: its Optical Construction Popularly explained. By R. E. DUDGEON, M.D. (London: Hardwicke and Bogue.) Besides being a popular exposition of the optical construction of the human eye, this little volume contains certain "novel views respecting subaqueous vision, air lenses, and visual accommodation." Dr. Dudgeon felt justified in putting this forward in a permanent form, and he has wisely adopted this popular method of doing so. The earlier portions are so simple that, with a little assistance, a young child could readily understand the construction of the eye; the illustrations are numerous and clear.

Appendix to the Sunday-School Teacher's Bible. (Eyre and Spottiswoode.) A Bible encyclopædia which will fit a very small pocket is a novelty, and will be found useful to teachers. It is the production of eminent scholars. The Rev. T. K. Cheyne, writes on the poetry of the Bible; Dr. Stainer on its music; Professor Sayce on the ethnology; Sir J. Hooker on the plants of the Bible; and others scarcely less eminent on the various matters which need explanation in the Scriptures. This should be in every Sunday-school teacher's hands.

The Art of Reading Aloud, &c. By GEORGE VANDENHOFF, M.A. (London: Sampson Low and Co.) We quite agree with Mr. Vandenhoff that elocution is a very important art, and we hope that one of the tests of our elementary instruction will be that of reading aloud. But the method of this book is cumbrous, too technical, with terms and terminology that repel the reader, and hinder him from becoming its student. Surely if "nature and art must go hand in hand," they might be made to talk simply as they go.

Studies in Physical Science. By W. J. MILLAR. (London: Marlborough and Co.) An interesting introduction to natural philosophy, but of too elementary and popular a character to be of use to any but general readers.

An Attempt to Determine the Chronological Order of Shakespeare's Plays. The *Harness Essay*, 1877. By the Rev. HENRY PAINE STOKES, B.A. (London: Macmillan and Co.) The method employed by Mr. Stokes is necessarily almost entirely internal. Shakespeare was from some cause or other indifferent to the fate of his work, and his contemporaries kept no record of their date or order. Shakespearean students of the present day are not satisfied with the knowledge of the text of the plays, they are determined, if possible, to fix the date of their production. We lately called attention to a work by the Rev. F. G. Fleay on the subject: we gladly render the same service to this. Apart from the success of the attempt, the volume is full of interest.

Old Testament Portraits. By CUNNINGHAM GEIKIE, D.D., Assistant Minister of St. Peter's,

East Dulwich. With Fifty Illustrations. (Strahan and Co.) This volume consists of a series of sketches originally contributed to the *Day of Rest*, along with the engravings which accompanied them there. So much has been written in the same manner that it is hard to conceive a good reason for the republication in this form—only that Dr. Geikie, D.D., it is clear, reads extensively in German, and writes a pleasant, though somewhat loose style. By far the best sketches, to our thinking, are those of "Jacob," "Pharaoh's Daughter," and "Joshua." Sometimes there is a touch of the over-forcible and almost sensational, as in "Jehu," "Joshua," "Samson," and "Delilah," but we dare say this would be found effective as spoken discourse. The book is very nicely got up, being well fitted for a parlour table or for a gift-book, for which purposes we presume it was chiefly intended.

The Light of the World. By DAVID MACLAREN, Minister of Humber. (David Douglas.) This volume contains a series of simple but effective sermons, which suffice to show how much he communicated of truth and knowledge about Scripture and Divine things, even when the purpose is avowedly not to be polemical or exegetical. Mr. Maclaren is earnest, full of that conciliating unction which we are more apt to think of in reference to some of the old divines than to modern preachers generally. Now and then we come on an old thought rather strikingly put:—

It is the purpose of Jesus to call to life a yet deeper love and appeal to a broader sympathy when He teaches men, not now and then, but always, to remember that they are all members of the kingdom of heaven, "fellow citizens of the saints and of the household of God." In the power of this truth we know how unnatural are those passions of wrath, envy, malice, which, speaking of human nature as it is, we call natural; how alien they are to our true nature as children of God; how truly natural and reasonable it is that we should love one another, how simple it seems that we should deny ourselves, and seek every man the good of others, and even, should it be so required, lay down our lives for the brethren. Perhaps we shall thus understand how it is that there are some who think that the selfish Christianity which has been so much in vogue—the egotism of converts caring for nothing but the safety of their own souls—is a poor representative of the religion of Jesus, and that there is a great work and a great career open to any church which, leaving the barren wastes of dogma, and the uncertain and morbid atmosphere of excited feeling, should set itself to hold up with proper faithfulness, and work out with proper persistency, the idea of a genuinely brotherly life, should endeavour more adequately to teach and fulfil that which is acknowledged to be, by way of excellence, the law of Christ.

Our readers, from this passage, will readily infer the fine spirit of the volume, but it is excellent for thought and for knowledge also, and adds another to that collection of recent Scotch sermons which so powerfully show the sweetening influences which are at work on the old dry bones of dead orthodoxy.

Notes on Fish and Fishing. By J. J. MANLEY, M.A. (Sampson Low and Co.) To the already abundant literature of fishing Mr. Manley has added his "Notes." An ingenious quotation from Juvenal—"Quicquid agunt pisces nostri est farango libelli"—on the title-page, by one slight alteration, serves well to show the nature of the ground over which he carries the reader. There are some fifteen "notes" on the various kinds of fish. Into the habits, ways, haunts of, and baits for, each, the writer enters with minuteness. The work shows that the author writes of fishing as if he loved it, not for its sake alone, but for the quiet, happy calm and delight of spirit, spoken of by Father Izaak, which the true angler finds in every ramble by lake or river—the song of birds, the beauty, charm, and grace of green fields, flowers, and flowing waters. The book is appropriately enough published by the well-known firm whose place of business stands on the site of Izaak Walton's house.

"Josh Billings" (Henry W. Shaw) is reported to have made more money than almost any American author by persistent working of his peculiar vein of humour. Some years he has got 4,000 dollars from a weekly newspaper for his exclusive contributions; has made 5,000 or 6,000 dollars by lecturing, and has had a profit from his almanack of 8,000 or 9,000 dollars more—18,000 to 20,000 dollars per annum. That is five or six times as much as Emerson, Hawthorne, Lowell, or Holmes has ever made.—*New York Times*.

Mr. A. M. Sullivan, M.P., has written a new chapter on "New Ireland." It deals with the relations of landlord and tenant in Ireland, and has special reference to the murder of Lord Leitrim. The first portion of the article appears in the current issue of *Mayfair*, which is this week permanently enlarged. To the same number the Rector of Merthyr contributes an account of his personal experiences in the undertaking of feeding 5,000 children during the prevalence of the distress in Merthyr.

INCOMES OF RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES.

The following particulars of the incomes of the various societies mentioned for the past year have been compiled by the *Rock* from official sources. The figures within parentheses show in each case the income of the preceding year:—Church Missionary Society, 207,053*l.* (175,993*l.*); British and Foreign Bible Society, 212,303*l.* (207,000*l.*); Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 99,565*l.* (104,607*l.*); Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, 148,438*l.* (136,906*l.*); Religious Tract Society, 148,557*l.* (136,906*l.*); Colonial and Continental Church Society, 21,461*l.* (17,702*l.*); Church of England Scripture Readers' Association, 11,012*l.* (11,356*l.*); Church Defence Institution, 44,511*l.* (Monthly Tract Society, 3,535*l.* (2,931*l.*); Young Men's Christian Association, 2,865*l.* (3,125*l.*); Christian Book Society, 3,043*l.* (3,243*l.*); Prayer Book and Homily Society, 513*l.* (590*l.*); Irish Church Missions to Roman Catholics, 21,438*l.* (22,839*l.*); South American Missionary Society, 12,467*l.* (12,253*l.*); Church Pastoral Aid Society, 50,496*l.* (53,861*l.*); London Diocesan Home Mission, 8,253*l.* (5,547*l.*); Church of England Sunday School Institute, Benevolent, 3,015*l.* (2,491*l.*); Trade, 12,724*l.* (10,635*l.*); Church Building, 17,017*l.*; Aged Pilgrims' Friend Society, 5,090*l.* (5,053*l.*); Naval and Military Bible Society, 1,056*l.* (1,222*l.*); Missions to Seamen, 12,832*l.* (12,507*l.*); Bishop of London's Fund, 28,201*l.* (28,554*l.*); Church of England Temperance Society, 8,845*l.* (7,000*l.*); Clergy Orphan Corporation, 10,558*l.* (11,391*l.*); Thames Church Mission, 2,491*l.* (2,311*l.*); Lord's Day Observance Society, 1,365*l.* (1,261*l.*); Working Men's Lord's Day Rest Association, 893*l.* (1,036*l.*); Royal Naval Scripture Readers' Society, 1,870*l.* (1,658*l.*); Home and Colonial School Society, 14,046*l.* (12,689*l.*); Anglo-Continental Society, 1,141*l.* (1,204*l.*); Church Association, 7,518*l.* (6,843*l.*); Church Defence Institution, 5,828*l.* (6,843*l.*); Monthly Tract Society, 3,535*l.* (3,000*l.*); Open-Air Mission, 1,206*l.*; London City Mission, 51,958*l.* (45,450*l.*); Evangelical Alliance, 1,760*l.* (1,560*l.*); Protestant Educational Institute, 2,533*l.* (2,284*l.*).

ECCLESIASTICAL MISCELLANY.

THE HERTFORD COLLEGE CASE.—We understand that the litigation in this case is not likely to be continued by an appeal from the recent judgment to the House of Lords; but that the judgment will be regarded as a ground for renewed agitation, the object of which will be to obtain such an amendment of the University Tests Act 1871, as will set at rest the doubts which have arisen respecting some of its provisions, and make it effective for the purpose of its promoters.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has, by letters patent, constituted Lord Penzance Dean of Archa. The *John Bull* is authorised to say that the statement that the Rev. John Edwards, vicar of Prestbury, had been invited to preach in St. Paul's Cathedral next Advent was entirely without foundation, and was utterly unknown to any of the cathedral authorities.

A BISHOP ON THE BURIALS QUESTION.—In his triennial charge, delivered on Monday, the Bishop of Oxford regretted the position taken by the majority of the clergy on the burials question. He did not think that anyone would be greatly injured if Nonconformists were allowed to celebrate the rites of burial in churchyards after their own fashion.

SECTARIAN EDUCATION IN IRELAND.—It has been determined by the central body having charge of the agitation on Irish Catholic University Education to form Catholic and Irish committees in London and the large centres of population in Great Britain for "the cultivation of English opinion" on the subject. The operations of the committees are to include the organisation of public meetings and petitions, and the publication of information on the question.

ST. ALBAN'S, HOLBORN.—In consequence of the remark of Lord Penzance that his Court "would consider what steps should be taken in the case of Mr. Mackonochie, who had set its proceedings openly at defiance," there was a large attendance on Sunday at the midday service, but no notice was taken of the matter by the preacher, the Rev. H. Stanton, who previous to the sermon asked the prayers of the faithful for the repose of a departed soul. The Dean of Westminster was one of the congregation.

SUFFRAGAN BISHOPS.—The following peers (thirty-three) voted on Tuesday night for Lord Rosebery's proposal that any future addition to the episcopate should be by the creation of suffragan bishops:—Dukes—Grafton, Saint Albans. Marquises—Ailesbury, Lansdowne. Earls—Abingdon, Camperdown, Granville, Grey, Kimberley, Lovelace, Morley, Spencer, and Sydney. Viscounts—Cardwell and Powerscourt. Lords—Abercromby, Belper, Boyle, Chesham, Foley, Hammond, Kenry, Kinnaid, Leigh, Oranmore, and Browne, Ponsonby, Ribblesdale, Romilly, Rosebery, Sefton, Truro, Vivian, and Waverley.

THE IRISH CHURCH SURPLUS.—The prospects of the magnificent surplus of the Irish Church are yearly waning, remarks the *Leeds Mercury*, thanks to the lavish manner in which the Disestablishment Act has been carried out. At the most hopeful computation, the surplus will not exceed five millions, whereas Mr. Gladstone put it at eight millions at the lowest figure. Then, again, instead of any of this surplus being realised next year, the

tenth since the passing of the Act, it will be sixteen years before a penny of the net profits will come to hand. There is now a debt of more than seven millions due to the National Debt Commissioners for money borrowed, and until this is paid off, no surplus will be available for any of the purposes described as so pressing.

THE BERMONDSEY VESTRY BILL.—In moving the rejection of the Bermondsey Vestry Bill, Mr. Stansfeld urged the House of Commons to remember that in a few days the inhabitants of the parish would have an opportunity of expressing their opinions upon the matter. On Thursday last the vestry was partially renewed by popular election, and the ratepayers showed their unmistakable hostility to the measure. The total number of votes polled throughout the parish is as follows:—For the anti-Church rate candidate, 7,247; for the Church party, 4,822; from these figures it will be seen that the anti-rate have a majority of some fifty per cent. The average number of votes recorded in the various wards for the respective candidates were:—In No. 1 Ward, Church, 269; anti-Church, 225. No. 2 Ward, Church, 227; anti-church, 235. No. 3 Ward, Church, 463; anti-Church, 658. No. 4 Ward, Church, 186; anti-church, 538. It is also to be observed that this is the first time there has been a contest in No. 1 Ward, where the Church party have hitherto held undisputed sway. The result of Thursday's election was that twelve out of the fifteen anti-Church rate candidates have been returned, giving that party a majority of four votes in the new vestry, and will be able to prevent Church rates from being again levied in Bermondsey. We congratulate them on their success.

RESIGNATION OF DR. FALCK.—From Berlin the important news was received last week that Dr. Falck, the Minister of Public Worship and Education, has tendered his resignation. The political significance of this step is not yet fully recognized, but the *Post* and *National Gazette* announce that the resignation was tendered before the attempt on the life of the Emperor, and add that it is attributable to circumstances connected with the internal affairs of the Evangelical National Church. The correspondents of the *Times* and *Standard* are somewhat more explicit. The former attributes the resignation—which has occasioned serious regret among the Liberals—to the orthodox appointment in and by the Supreme Consistory of the Established Protestant Church of the Kingdom, which is controlled by the King and not by the Minister, the liberal ideas of the former adopted when the State began to legislate against the Catholic establishments, being gradually relinquished in favour of stricter principles, owing to the growth of atheism among the labouring classes. The *Standard* correspondent, after alluding to the appointment of Dr. Hermes, a Privy Councillor, instead of Dr. Hermann, who had resigned, to the presidency of the Prussian Supreme Ecclesiastical Court, as one of the principal reasons for the resignation, adds that Dr. Falck's position has been strongly affected since last year, when in several Protestant parishes an agitation was set at work to remove the Apostolic Creed from the Liturgy, a heresy which was strongly resented by the Emperor. Notwithstanding his numerous enemies, however, both Catholic and Protestant, Dr. Falck managed to retain his position owing to the assurances of Prince Bismarck.

ANGLICAN RETREATS.—The Roman system of retreats is becoming more common among the Anglican clergy than most people imagine. There are some twenty-four or twenty-five, one of the number being for candidates for holy orders (deacons or priests), already arranged to take place between the present time and the end of November. They are to continue over a period varying from four to five days each, and are to be held in nine several dioceses—Worcester nine, all at the Clergy House of Rest at Malvern Link; Oxford five, two of which are to be held at Cowley St. John and Cuddesdon College, and one at Boyne Hill, Exeter; two at Kenn and Bovey Tracey respectively. Manchester, Chichester, York, Bangor, Rochester, and St. Asaph are to have one in each diocese. That in the diocese of Manchester, and which is to accommodate fifteen members, is fixed for Worsley, of which the Rev. the Earl of Mulgrave is vicar, and is to be conducted by the Rev. C. Bodington. The retreat in the diocese of St. Asaph is to be celebrated at Hawarden, and is calculated to accommodate twenty-four clergy, who are to be under the conduct of the Rev. R. M. Grier. Candidates who may wish to assist at the last-mentioned retreat are invited to communicate with the rector of the parish, the Rev. Stephen Gladstone. Four of the contemplated retreats are to be conducted by the Rev. "Father" Benson, whilst the Rev. "Father" Congreve, the Revs. John Wylde, C. Bodington, George Body, R. M. Grier, and S. S. Coles, and others are to conduct one each, some of the retreats remaining without a conductor designate. Two or three profess to impose no limit with regard to numbers, the others offering accommodation for numbers varying from fifteen to thirty. If all the places should be taken it may be reckoned that an aggregate of over 400 clergy will go into retreat during the season mentioned, without reckoning those retreats which are professedly regardless of number.—*Manchester Guardian*.

NONCONFORMITY IN RUSSIA.—The *Eastern Daily Press* recounts a curious trial which recently took place in Russia. At the sitting of the Criminal Department of the Odessa District Court March 30 (April 11), 1878, three peasants, with more or less

unpronounceable names, together with a private soldier "on indefinite furlough," and his wife, were charged with the heinous offence of not going to church. All this, it was significantly hinted, came of the emancipation of the serfs. One of the peasants, taking advantage of his position, invited the others not to go to church, but to collect at his house to hear the Gospel. Many thereupon left off attending church, and collected at the abode of this schismatic, where he explained the Gospel to them, and not a single meeting took place without somebody or other joining the Stundists. At first the meetings were held secretly, but after a while, when the numbers increased, the reading of the Scriptures took place openly. This peasant said it was only from him that a correct interpretation of God's Word could be had; the converts he made rejected the sign of the cross (or crossing themselves) and also other duties imposed on them by the Orthodox Faith. The jury, of course, belonged to the Orthodox faith. The procurator charged them in this character. He said, "I believe that the significance of this law consists solely in the fact that you, belonging to the Orthodox Church, professing the Orthodox Faith, more than others from the point of view of the law, are better able to weigh and define the guilt of those brought before you in such cases as this. You yourselves may be the best judges on this point." What could the result be under such circumstances? Of course the whole lot were packed off to Siberia. Nothing of the kind. The jury retired, and after five minutes' deliberation, returned a verdict of "Not guilty" for the defendants, who were thereupon acquitted, the preacher to preach, and the flock to listen as they would, the private soldier to enjoy his indefinite furlough and the society of his beloved spouse.

THE PRUSSIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE VATICAN.—It was announced by the *Cologne Gazette* the other day that several of the Prussian bishops had represented to the Pope that an amicable arrangement between the Government of Berlin and the Vatican was impossible. How far this may be true we have no means of judging, but if the Berlin correspondent of the *Daily News* has been rightly informed as to the extreme limit to which Prince Bismarck is prepared to go in the way of conciliation, the prospect of a settlement of the difficulty must be considered extremely remote. Prussia, we are told, is willing to modify or repeal the Act regulating the administration of Church property in vacant dioceses or parishes, and also the Act which provides for the conditional suspension of the usual State allowance for the support of Catholic worship. But here the line is slightly drawn. The State, it is asserted, will insist upon its right of veto in the appointment of bishops; the expulsion of the Jesuits and the dissolution of the convents are declared to be irrevocable facts; and there can be no modification of the law which provides for the exclusion of all priests, who are not Prussian subjects, who do not possess a "satisfactory degree of culture," and whose "character is not free from suspicion." The meaning of this last provision—that the training and education of the clergy shall be placed under the control of the State, which constitutes itself at the same time the ultimate judge of a man's fitness for the sacred office. If this be still the requirement of the Prussian Government, there is small chance of arrangement with the Vatican. A telegram from Rome, of May 11, says:—"After the publication of Cardinal Caterini's letter censuring the Prussian priests who had accepted stipends from the State, the negotiations between the Vatican and Berlin for the re-establishment of relations were immediately broken off. The negotiations with other Powers have also failed, in consequence of which the Vatican is stated to have resolved upon a policy of resistance."

LORD ROSEBERRY'S MARRIAGE.—In the House of Convocation on Thursday, the Rev. Prebendary Ainslie, Henstridge, obtained permission to read *in extenso* the following petition:—

To the Very Reverend the Prolocutor, the Very Reverend the Deans, the Venerable Archdeacons, and the Reverend Proctors of the Lower House of the Convocation of Canterbury in Session assembled.—The humble petition of the undersigned Charles Gutch, B.D., priest of the diocese of London, and incumbent of St. Cyprian's, St. Marylebone, sheweth: 1. That two persons, one of them a Jewess, were married by civil contract before the Superintendent-Registrar of St. George's, Hanover-square, on March 20 last. 2. That subsequently, on the same day, these two persons, being married, presented themselves at Christ Church, Mayfair, for the solemnising of their union with the marriage service of the Church of England. 3. That a priest of this diocese did then and there read the Church's service with them, and did therefore, according to that service, bless them in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. 4. That this use of the service for one who is an unbeliever in the Christian religion is a plain profanation of holy things, and a great scandal in the eyes of your petitioner and of many other Christians. 5. That this ceremony was performed under the sanction of a licence which was issued from the bishop's registry, and carried the episcopal seal, and styled the two persons "our well beloved in Christ." 6. That such licence was not merely needless in the case of two persons already joined by civil contract, but might have been withheld at the discretion of the bishop or his registrar acting under his instructions. (See opinion of Sir Travers Twiss, late Vicar-General, which was read by Bishop Wilberforce in the Upper House of Convocation, Feb. 11, 1872.) 7. That your petitioner, feeling deeply aggrieved at this manifest breach of Church order and profanation of holy rites, earnestly entreats your reverend House to take the whole matter into your grave consideration, and to deal with it as your reverend House shall

deem most conducive to the honour of our Lord Jesus Christ and the discipline of the Church and the interests of true religion among us. And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.—Signed by me, CHARLES GUTCH, B.D. This fifteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight.

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIANS AND DISESTABLISHMENT.—At the meeting of the United Presbyterian Synod, held in Edinburgh last week, the following resolutions were adopted:—"1. That the synod renews its testimony against the system of State Churches as unscriptural, opposed to equity, and hurtful to the well-being of religion and society; and emphatically condemns all attempts at legislative compromise or alternative on the question of disestablishment. 2. That the motions of which notices have been given in Parliament with reference to religious denominations in Scotland, while differing in some details, either evade the main issue, or aim at ends purely sectional, and at the reconstruction of the Establishment, and are unworthy of earnest legislation. That the 'inquiry' proposed, instead of being directed to useful and competent questions regarding the Kirk, or the property of the nation devoted to its support, deals gratuitously with matters foreign to the merits of the case or to the duties of Parliament—schemes of ecclesiastical union, and the affairs and reciprocal relations of churches deriving no authority or support from the State; while the methods of inquiry contemplated—by select committee and Royal Commission—are inapplicable to the solution of the question of the continuance or discontinuance of the State-Church, which can only be justly decided on the ground of broad facts already well known, and widely accepted principles, and in the ordinary course of political action. 3. That public opinion in Scotland, which it is professedly sought by this elaborate machinery to discover, has already manifested itself widely in favour of disestablishment in the most numerous religious communities, and in representative assemblages of citizens, as well as in electoral issues. That the value of such tests of opinion, and the legitimate issue of constitutional appeal, cannot be set aside any more than the claims of equity can be altered, or ought to be prejudiced, by tentative inquiry. 4. That with reference to proposals for a settlement of the question of the State-Church on the basis of the Revolution or earlier statutes, or of the claim of a particular church to national character, no settlement which is simply Presbyterian or sectional, or which would leave a legal status with one church or polity, can be accepted as either expedient or equitable. And the synod calls on all who desire a clear issue and settlement to adhere to the simple and unqualified demand for disestablishment and disendowment on impartial principles, as the sole measure which can meet the requirements of the case, or serve the ends of truth and justice."

"REUNION OF CHRISTENDOM."—An influential meeting of clergy and laity was held at Oxford on Wednesday evening for the purpose of securing the co-operation of Roman Catholic prelates and priests, as well as members of the Established Church, in promoting the unity of Christendom. The Bishop of Bombay presided, and there were on the platform several Roman Catholic priests. The chairman said that when they spoke of the reunion of Christendom they clearly implied that there were at least two bodies to be reunited, and that the two bodies were in so far co-ordinate as that their union did not mean simply the absorption by one of them of all the rest. The Rev. H. R. Bramley moved the first resolution:—"That the advance of the infidel movement throughout Europe and the actual or threatened dissolution of the relations of Church and State constitute a fresh call on all sincere believers to pray and labour earnestly for the reunion of Christians in one faith and one fold." In most of Western Europe the dissolution of Church and State had to great extent been accomplished, and that made union the more necessary. He thought that most of the heartburnings and jealousies in the Church had been due to political and worldly ambition. Canon Ridgway seconded the resolution, and said that there had been during the last thirty years a revival throughout the whole of Europe of increased spiritual life and vigour, and it had been found that there was not so great a vital difference between the tenets of the churches as was once supposed. Though they might long for unity they must not expect uniformity. They must be blind indeed who did not read in the signs of the times that there must be a complete readjustment of the relations between Church and State, and they should join hearts and hands together in evangelising the world. The resolution was carried. Mr. Nevins, editor of the *Christian Apologist and Catholic Gazette*, moved:—"That the accession of Pope Leo XIII. and the reawakening life of Eastern Christianity afforded at the present moment special ground for renewed energy and hope." The Rev. C. S. Lowder seconded the resolution, which was supported by the Rev. George Nugee, who said he was convinced Cardinal Manning and other leading theologians would be glad to meet others from the Anglican Communion and discuss a possible basis of reunion. He did not say the time had come for practically effecting the reunion, but he thought there might be a conference of certain theologians to draw up a statement and programme for the purpose. The resolution was carried. The Rev. H. N. Oxenham proposed "That the ultimate aim and solution of the Oxford movement of 1833 must be sought in the restoration of the corporate union of Christendom,"

and said he looked with hope to the new Pope to help to bring about the union which they sought. The resolution, having been seconded by Father Benson, was carried.

Religious and Denominational News.

Mr. Orsman, of the Golden-lane Mission, has engaged the Variety Theatre, Old-street, City, for special evangelistic services on Sundays. The meetings are to commence on Sunday evening next, when Lord Shaftesbury has promised to deliver an address. The Variety Theatre, which will seat over 2,000 people, is filled twice nightly with a very rough gathering of youths, and an endeavour is being made to secure their attendance at these Sunday services.

THE REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH.—It is stated that a movement has been set on foot for establishing in London a college or seminary in connection with the Reformed Episcopal Church. It is likely also that a newspaper will be started for advocating the interests of this new evangelical system.

CAVENDISH CHAPEL, MANCHESTER.—Dr. Rogers, of Exeter, the munificent donor of windows to St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Exeter Cathedral, and other churches, has, at the request of Mrs. Paxton Hood, made a similar donation for the principal window of Cavendish Chapel, and has consented, by the special desire of its present pastor, that it shall stand as a memorial to his distinguished predecessors, the late Dr. M'All, and Dr. Halley. The window is to be an art window, and will be a great addition to the beauty of the building.

OXFORD-STREET, LEICESTER.—The anniversary services in connection with this place of worship have recently been held. On Wednesday, May 8, the Rev. J. A. Macfadyen, M.A., of Manchester, preached a sermon, and on Sunday, May 12, the pulpit was ably occupied by the Rev. S. Pearson, M.A., of Liverpool. Collections were made after each service. The annual tea meeting was held on Monday, May 13, after which the chair was taken by Mr. J. J. Preston, and addresses delivered by several ministers of the town. In the course of the evening a presentation was made to the pastor, the Rev. S. Lambriek, who has resigned his charge, and is about removing to Smethwick.

THE WESLEYAN METHODISTS.—The annual returns of membership, though not complete, are expected to show a slight decrease. The most serious falling off is in Cornwall, where the membership is 898 below the last return. This is accounted for to a great extent by the number of removals which have resulted from the depression of the mining industry. In the two years ending May, 1877, a net increase of over 24,000 members was reported. The absence of such improvement this year will be accounted for in various ways, but experience warrants the expectation of a decrease, or at least of stagnation, after any period of considerable advancement.

THE MONTHLY TRACT SOCIETY AND THE FRENCH EXHIBITION.—The committee of this society are distributing Gospel portions and tracts in various language to the thousands of visitors flocking to the Exhibition. A correspondent of the society writes that the eagerness of the people for tracts is daily increasing, and that the work of distribution is conducted with as little excitement as possible. The Earl of Shaftesbury and the Right Hon. W. Cowper-Temple have been among the visitors to the kiosks, and have expressed hearty satisfaction with the way in which the tracts are received by foreigners as well as by Englishmen. Amongst the recipients have been a considerable number of priests.

COLONIAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY.—In the report of the speech of the Rev. Warlow Davies, M.A., in our last number, there were one or two errors. Instead of "They had built a church at Auckland through the help the society had generously afforded," &c., Mr. Davies said: "The Home Missionary Society had done a good work through the help," &c. The church recently built at Auckland, at a cost of some thousands, was erected without any help from the Colonial Missionary Society, or from England, and opened with a debt of only 600*l.* In the reference to "Greater Britain," the words "only in the southern parts of the island" should be omitted. Tropical plants are, of course, less likely to be found in the south than in the north of New Zealand.

REGENT'S PARK CHAPEL.—At the annual meeting in connection with this place of worship, Sir Morton Peto, Bart., in the chair, it was stated that no less a sum than 4,335*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.* had been raised by the church and congregation during the past year for missionary and benevolent objects. The total amount sent this year from Regent's Park Chapel to the Baptist Missionary Society amounted to one-seventieth of the whole of its income. The Rev. S. H. Booth, Col. Griffin, and Sir Robert Lush, took part in the meeting. Dr. Landels, in a few forcible words, expressed his gratitude to God for the past, and his hopes that the future might even exceed it in blessing and usefulness. Dr. Schurman, from Canada, followed; and Sir Robert Lush then proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman. This was responded to most heartily by all present.

MILTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.—From last Saturday's *Gravesend Reporter* we learn that a most successful effort was made on May 12 and 13 to extinguish all debt upon which interest was paid on the above place of worship. During the previous four years since the church was opened 6,200*l.* had

been raised. It was resolved at the anniversary to clear off 500*l.* more, and leave only 300*l.* owing, without interest, to the Chapel Building Society. After the sermon on the morning of May 12 the collection was 418*l.* This sum became 580*l.* when the anniversary closed. At the public meeting on May 13, W. H. Conyers, Esq., of Leeds, presided, and congratulatory addresses were made by the Revs. E. R. Conder, M.A. (Leeds), J. C. Gallaway, J. Moutain, and county ministers. The Rev. Dr. Aveling said that he had taken part with the committee of the Congregational Chapel Building Society in making hundreds of grants, but one more satisfactory than this in the result of gathering a united and prosperous congregation had never been made by the society. Mr. Gould, on behalf of the deacons, said that the result was owing, under God, very largely to the untiring energy and zeal of their pastor and Mrs. Guest.

BALHAM AND UPPER TOOTING NEW CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.—On account of the increase of the population in these localities, and there being no Congregational place of worship nearer than Clapham, Lower Tooting, Wandsworth, or Streatham Hill—a distance too far for families to attend—the erection of a Congregational church has been for some time contemplated, and as soon as possible will be commenced on a most eligible freehold site, which, by the liberal aid of the London Congregational Chapel Building Society, has been purchased on the main road, near the Balham railway station. While this building is in progress temporary worship will be held in a large room connected with Wandsworth Lodge, Trinity-road, Upper Tooting, kindly lent by Charles De Selincourt, Esq. On Monday evening, May, 20, these services were commenced, when the Rev. W. H. S. Aubrey, Secretary of the Surrey Congregational Union, read the Scriptures and offered prayer, and a sermon founded on Numb. xiv. 5, Psalm xcii. 12th and following verses, was preached by the Rev. A. Raleigh, D.D., and the hymns were given out by local ministers. Though the evening was threatening, this spacious room, seating about 160 persons, was quite filled. These services will be continued on the morning and evening of each Lord's Day, and on Thursday evenings.

NEW BAPTIST CHAPEL IN THE EDGWARE-ROAD.—The new chapel for the present year towards which the London Baptist Association subscribes the usual 1,000*l.*, is to be erected at Brondesbury, a growing suburb on the Edgware-road. On Tuesday afternoon, the 14th, the memorial stone was laid by the Rev. J. P. Chown, as president for the year. There was a large attendance of friends under a marquee where the ceremony was held. The friends afterwards adjourned to Abbey-road Chapel, where a tea and public meeting were subsequently held, at which Mr. J. Harvey (treasurer of the building fund) presided, and addresses were delivered by the Rev. J. Clifford, M.A., upon the fruitfulness of Christian churches and the justification of their aggressive effort in the proclamation of the Gospel as well as in the establishment of so many other useful agencies, and by other ministers and friends. The new chapel is intended to meet the wants of a rapidly-growing neighbourhood, and its need is much felt, there being only one place of worship within a considerable distance. The freehold site has cost 850*l.*, and is one of the best in the neighbourhood, having a frontage to the Edgware-road. The chapel—of Gothic architecture—is designed to accommodate 735 persons for the present, and will be capable of being enlarged to seat near 1,000. The contract, including vestries and lecture hall or schoolroom, has been taken for 4,573*l.*; and the total cost, including furniture, is estimated at about 6,000*l.*

BARBICAN.—A NEW WELSH CHAPEL.—On Thursday the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of a new chapel of the Calvinistic Methodist denomination, and intended to be devoted exclusively to services in the Welsh language, was performed by Mr. David Davies, M.P., on the site in Bridge-water-gardens, Barbican, in the presence of a considerable gathering of persons interested in the project. Subsequently, in the evening, a public meeting in celebration of the event was held at the Falcon-square Chapel, Falcon-square. The proceedings, which were watched attentively by a full congregation, were under the presidency of the Rev. D. C. Davies, M.A. After prayer had been offered up in the Welsh vernacular, Mr. David Davies, M.P., addressed the assembly, pointing out the advisability of Welshmen preserving their ancient language. He admitted the necessity which Welshmen in London were under of learning English, but he contended that the English was well able to take care of itself, as under the regulations of the School Board Act, which had now been in force for nearly eight years, every Welsh child was compelled to go to school and learn the English language. The Welsh language, he contended, had a peculiar character of its own, and appealed to the feelings of Welshmen more powerfully than could any other, and it was by promoting schemes such as the one now in hand that the somewhat scattered Welsh population of London were brought together, and that a knowledge of their mother tongue was fostered. Mr. H. Richard, M.P., also bore testimony to the peculiar genius of the Welsh language, and to the comparative inefficiency of English as a substitute to Welsh ears. Addresses in support of the movement were also delivered by Mr. Morgan Lloyd, M.P., who spoke of the services to liberty rendered by the Welsh people at the dawn of the Christian era, and at the period of the Reformation; by Mr.

J. H. Puleston, M.P., by the Rev. R. Williams, and other gentlemen. From a statement made early in the evening by Mr. Stephen Evans, one of the treasurers of the fund, it appears that the estimated cost of the new building is a little over 10,000*l.*, of which more than half has been subscribed or promised. No less than seven places of worship in London are now supported by the Calvinistic Methodist body.

NONCONFORMITY IN WALES.—On Monday the Duke of Westminster laid the memorial stone of a school and manse in connection with the English Congregational Church at Mold. The proceedings commenced on Sunday, when sermons were preached by Dr. Stoughton. On Monday there was a cold collation, Sir Robert Cunliffe, Bart., the Liberal candidate for the Denbigh Boroughs, presiding. There were present the Duke of Westminster, Lord Richard Grosvenor, M.P. for Flintshire; Mr. John Scott Bankes, chairman of the Flintshire quarter sessions; Mr. John Roberts, J.P., Abergele; Dr. Stoughton; the Rev. Roger Edwards, chairman of the Mold School Board; Messrs. Thompson, J.P., Mold; J. Armitage, J.P., Manchester; W. Crossfield, Liverpool; R. S. Hudson, Chester; and the Rev. D. Gasquoine, Oswestry. The Rev. Burford Hook read letters from various eminent Nonconformists, promising subscriptions towards the object. Among these was one from Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P., inclosing a cheque for 100*l.*, and expressing a hope that the building would be put to purposes which would make it a centre of religious influence. The chairman adverted to the successful work Mr. Hook had accomplished in Mold during his long pastorate. The Duke of Westminster, in the course of his speech, addressed himself chiefly to the present and past position of Nonconformity, and, referring to its past position, said he remembered when he was a child he was taught to regard Dissenters as being as bad as murderers; that Dissenting chapels were dens of iniquity to be shunned, and, if it were necessary to pass them, to do so as quickly as possible. He said that even now Dissenters had some grievances, and if Mr. Osborne Morgan had been there he would doubtless have acquainted them with one of their grievances. (Applause.) Lord Richard Grosvenor, speaking on education, regretted to say that socialistic ideas were much stronger now than they were, and he observed that Socialism always came in forms of Atheism and pulling down of every established religion. As Nonconformists they would wish to have nothing to do with these classes, but would desire to instruct their youth in pure scriptural truths, unbiassed by sectarianism. The Duke of Westminster subsequently laid the foundation stone. He said he hoped that trade would revive, and that European peace might be secured. If it was secured he thought it would be owing, in a great measure, to the efforts of Nonconformists.

Correspondence.

THE CHRISTIAN WORLD AND THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Perhaps it is hardly worth while correcting a mistake in your report of my speech at the Congregational Union, but the writer of the Summary (no doubt amidst the noise occasioned by the gentlemen who did not like to hear the Press referred to), says that he "understood me to state that, with the exception of the *English Independent*, all the religious or the Dissenting journals were "most distinctly organs of the Leicester Conference"! I made no reference to any other journals than the *English Independent* and the *Christian World*—and if Mr. Mark Wilks and the leaders of the Leicester Conference would have allowed me to speak without interruption, as I allowed them, they would have found that my comments on the conduct of the *Christian World* were going to be carefully qualified with a tribute to the merits of that paper on the side of liberty. The editor has had the good sense to ask for those sentences which his friends refused to hear, and they accordingly appear in his report. Your summary omits to state that however "emphatic" my protest against the recent one-sidedness of the *Christian World* may have been, it was supported by the almost unanimous and emphatic assent of the Assembly, of which the editor is a representative delegate; and the only "observation" which I offered to "withdraw" was the phrase "organ of the Leicester Conference"—if the supporters of that Conference would prefer another form of expressing the same idea. It is important to supply this addition to the report, since the *Christian World* represents me as having been compelled to sit down amidst a greatly divided opinion. The chairman, indeed, decided that I had better not be heard further. But the Assembly, as a whole, by loud and repeated cheers, expressed its agreement with my judgment.

Yours faithfully,

EDWARD WHITE.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Will you allow me, in justice to the Rev.

Edward White, to correct and supplement the remarks of your "Own Correspondent" last week?

Mr. White certainly did not state, as your correspondent understood, "that, with the exception of the *English Independent*, all the religious or Dissenting journals 'most distinctly were organs of the Leicester Conference.' " His strictures were confined to one paper, the *Christian World*. If his remarks called forth "emphatic protests" from some, the enthusiastic applause with which they were greeted by the bulk of the audience showed that the sympathy with them was widespread and deep.

I am, yours faithfully,

EDWARD S. PROUT.

Bridgewater, May 20, 1878.

A MODIFICATION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—In your perfectly fair and impartial digest of what I ventured to say at the meeting of the Congregational Union on the 10th inst., there is a sentence which, without correction, would convey a wrong impression:—"If their Independency was to be an Independency which would sanction in the midst of them two or three individuals holding divergent opinions from the rest, the same principle would admit of two or three hundred having a place among them." The word "divergent" is not mine. If it is to be used, it must be qualified thus—"fundamentally divergent." My point was illustrated by a reference to the present condition of the French Protestant Church, in which there are two parties, which Dr. De Pressensé described the other day as "Irreconcilables"—the one Rationalistic, the other Orthodox. These are kept together, notwithstanding their spiritual antipathies, and notwithstanding the wishes of the Orthodox, by their connection with the State. A voluntary Church, having any life in it, would demand at once that the two sections should separate. The Rationalistic could no more bear the Orthodox than the Orthodox could the Rationalistic. My argument was that the principle which would justify the presence of two or three avowed Rationalists in our Union, would justify the presence of two or three hundred; and a true Union of such "Irreconcilables" was impracticable, and, if practicable, would be indefensible.

Yours truly,

May 17, 1878.

JOHN KENNEDY.

CELEBRATION OF THE REPEAL OF THE TEST AND CORPORATION ACTS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—On the 18th of June there is to be a banquet in London to commemorate the Repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts, which, as your readers are aware, took place just fifty years ago. It has occurred to me that many gentlemen residing in different parts of the country would like to take part in a commemoration so important and interesting. May I suggest that wherever practicable the friends of religious equality should unite together to do honour to the occasion? They may not in every case be able to arrange for a sumptuous banquet; but in some way—by a tea-meeting, or by a meeting without the tea—they should commemorate an event which constitutes so grand an epoch in our civil and religious history.

Truly yours,

A PURITAN.

THE READING ELECTION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—The splendid victory of the Reading Liberals on Friday last should infuse fresh courage into the Liberal ranks throughout the country. It is hardly possible to exaggerate either its completeness or its importance. For a long time a Tory propaganda has been at work in the borough with a special view, and with a sworn determination to wrest the seat from the Liberals. All the usual tactics of Toryism have been sedulously employed. Nearly every public-house has been converted into a Tory camp, and it may be safely averred that not a voter whom beer could buy has been left uncorrupted. For months, if not for years past, meetings have been held at these public-houses, and every available element of town rowdiness has been pressed into the service. The Eastern Question has of course been eagerly employed for the same purpose. Sir Francis Goldsmid's well-known leaning towards the Beaconsfield policy was counted on to effect a division in the Liberal camp. Unfortunately for the Tory zealots, they were not content with the plain facts of the case as weapons wherewith to fight their way, but with the unblushing effrontery of modern Conser-

vatism, they manufactured their own facts, and sought by means of a direct falsehood to mislead the political adherents of the deceased baronet. With characteristic promptitude Mr. Thomas Rogers, the Liberal agent, at once exposed the fraud, and thus probably dealt the Tories one of their heaviest blows. Another questionable artifice which reacted disastrously upon them was the employment of a renegade Liberal to sow dissension in the Liberal ranks. This man, it appeared, was a fanatic on the Eastern Question, and had received a commission from the spirit of Mahomet to leave his London shop and go forth to the help of the Turks, to the help of the Turks against the—Reading Liberals. All that the Tories took by the poor fellow's enthusiasm was the disgust of their more honourable friends, and the hilarious contempt of their opponents. A third trick of the "Constitutionalists" was to placard the town with the result of the Oxford University Election, so worded as to convey to the uninitiated the idea of an overwhelming Conservative victory. Professor Smith was placarded as "Smith, the Radical candidate." The ruse of course failed. These local Tories forget that the working classes are no longer the "dumb driven cattle" that they once were.

After making due allowance, however, for these and sundry other characteristic false shots of the Tories, it must be admitted, I think, that the Liberal victory was purely the result of the Nonconformists' unanimity and zeal. In Mr. George Palmer they had a man who commanded their fullest confidence on the leading questions of the day. An intimate friend and co-religionist of Mr. John Bright, they knew full well that he would not be found very far from that illustrious tribune in any national crisis; hence an unreserved adhesion and unwavering support. The lesson of the election appears to me to be this—If Liberal victories are to be won, and the present disastrous Tory régime to be terminated, candidates must be found who will inspire this Nonconformist zeal. Without it Liberalism can do nothing, and with it priests and pothouses are alike easily put to flight. It is not enough that a candidate should be a good politician to inspire this zeal; he must be a man of high character and integrity. Any one who stood in the Reading market-place last Friday evening and witnessed the exuberant delight of the vast multitude as their new member appeared before them, would not need to be told that it was not a mere political victory which had been achieved. It was the triumph of a tried integrity—the apotheosis of a virtuous life. Surrounding the man of their choice were brothers whose benefactions were engraved on every institution of the town, and children who were models of domestic culture and felicity. This was the eloquence which so stirred the soul of that mighty throng. Mere words were a superfluity on the occasion. It was universally felt that in the great council of the nation the man before them whom they had elected to represent them would ever lift up his voice and record his vote for "Whatever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report;" and hence the irrepressible enthusiasm and delight.

And so it must be, I repeat, in the elections of the future, if Liberalism is ever to resume its sway in England. We must have done with mere parliamentary gamesters. It won't do to bring before constituencies mere politicians. The whilom Radical of Southwark is illustrating at Constantinople what comes of such, and the borough of Greenwich has the opportunity of studying in the present fate of a would-be representative another striking illustration of the same defect. Character high, unimpeachable, and confirmed, must be held to be the first essential of a Liberal candidate; and unless I wrongly read the determination of those who must ever remain the hope of Liberalism in English boroughs, the earnest, God-fearing members of the Nonconforming Churches, the men who have just sent George Palmer to the House of Commons, it will only be to court defeat to bring forward men, whatever may be their other credentials, who are wanting in this. Of ambitious lawyers, philosophical radicals, and mere capitalists, the constituencies are thoroughly wearied, as their painful experience of such has usually been, a neglect of their real interests in the House, and an obsequious toadyism towards those who have it in their power to bestow place or position.

Bristol, May 20, 1878.

A. C.

ENGLISH ARTISANS AND THE PARIS EXHIBITION.—A SUGGESTION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Shall the Board of Trade send ten thousand English workmen to the grand international dis-

play in Paris? I venture to say—Yes. Why? If I am asked, the reply comes readily to my pen. The fight of the present and the future for England is a battle for the markets of the world. Once we distanced all in our leading branches of manufactures. "*Veni—vidi—vici*" England could say, and not untruthfully. Our capital, our inventions, our business ability distanced competition. What was simple truth a generation or two since is not the fact to-day. The wise are they who consent to see, even what they would willingly desire should not exist to be seen. What we wish we believe—is the governing rule only of fools. That one Englishman could thrash three Mounseers, or other foreign human products, was an article of faith with our fathers, and, perhaps, Nelson and Wellington gave them some reasons for their belief. But do not let us be mistaken. The conflict to day is an industrial and an artistic one. It is one of skill and taste, and not of steel and powder. Woe to the conquered! On our success in the battle-field depends the future of the swarming population crowded on the mountain peaks which, peeping from the Atlantic, have homed a so strangely busy people. Success or emigration, which is it to be? The answer must be sought and found in a calm inspection of the contents of the wondrous collection now gathered together in what was the Champ de Mars. How can we best read the lessons it can give? How can we best utilise the teachings of this world's workshop? Years will elapse before the means of so comparing our manufactures with those of our rivals again occurs. The Condition of England Question still exists, though we can hardly recollect it for the Eastern Question. The latter will pass. The former endures, and asks for a solution always.

Walk through the miles of manufactures to be now seen at the Paris Show. How an Englishman is impressed by the taste, the industrial skill, the delicate sense of form and colour, and all constituting beauty, there displayed. Japan and China send strangely original, marvellously new ideas of artistic decoration in porcelain, in woodwork, in textile fabrics, in everything. Austria and Hungary, Italy and Russia, and France; every one arrests our steps with proofs of industrial energy and productiveness; but, above all, and here is the danger for England, with decisive tests of the comparative taste of themselves and ourselves.

If all this strikes the merely curious visitor, who goes to the Exhibition simply to gratify curiosity, how much more must it impress—shall I say scare?—the manufacturer and workman, who knows what he is seeing, and can draw his conclusions from actual knowledge both as to processes of manufacture of the articles displayed and as to the artistic results achieved by each. A man sees what he brings the power to see. Our manufacturers will see what is here shown to them, and gather, let us hope, wisdom from what they do see. I know, as Novalis says, "Every Englishman is an island," and a separating sea of prejudice and insular vanity does much to thrust off all that he comes in contact with. I have during the past fortnight heard Englishmen in the midst of these industrial wonders, boldly—shall I say stupidly?—denying the plain facts that stared them in the face—madly professing faith that no reason could justify. Wiser men will lay by, while in Paris, their English beliefs in Englishmen whipping creation in all things, they will try to bring unbiassed minds to the gathering of true conclusions, whether such be palatable or not.

Now for the workmen. I say no better investment can be found for national funds than expending, say, a hundred thousand pounds or so in letting the practical knowledge and the inquiring eyes of ten thousand selected British mechanics wander through the avenues of this Exhibition. They will saturate themselves with the new ideas before them. They will bring back to our manufactories and workshops wisdom priceless to us. Let the Board of Trade at once move for this grant for this most useful purpose—one I hold of the highest national importance.

We shall be met by all with every help. Our railways and foreign ones will carry such an invasion with cheapness and despatch. France will carry the invaders as friends to be received with open arms. M. Krantz will throw open the doors of the Exhibition on the most liberal terms. Let the visitors understand they go not for pleasure only, but for profit. Let the representatives of each branch of art or manufacture study first the products of the same branches that the Continent and America contribute. Let them name their reporter, and each give to him materials for the report that will chronicle the impressions of the whole. In the

multitude of counsellors there is wisdom. Here will be trained powers of observation, practical knowledge, ability to compare and draw the lessons comparison teaches.

We do not object to waste eleven millions on an Abyssinian war about a meddling missionary. Are we to be told we cannot afford a fraction of such an outlay for the most valuable work that English national funds can be applied to? I hope not.

Yours faithfully,

65, Cheapside.

JOHN BENNETT.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

On Wednesday Lord Lewisham was elected without opposition to represent West Kent in the room of Mr. J. G. Talbot. This was the first time for nearly forty years that an election for West Kent has passed without a contest. The proceedings were purely formal.

The election for Reading took place on Friday amidst some excitement. The Tory party had made extraordinary exertions on behalf of their candidate, Mr. Attenborough, and as that gentleman ran the Liberals a very close race in 1854, his friends were sanguine of success. The Liberals, however, had better gauged the feeling of the constituency, and were never in doubt as to the issue. The poll, which was declared by the Mayor in the evening, was as follows:—

Mr. Palmer (Liberal)	2223
Mr. Attenborough (Tory)	1563

Liberal majority	658
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There are 4,721 electors in the constituency. At the last election Mr. Attenborough was defeated by 139 votes, Sir Francis Goldsmid polling 1,791, and Mr. Attenborough 1,652.

After having lasted five days, the polling for Oxford University closed on Friday, and the official declaration gives Mr. Talbot a majority of 1,698, the numbers being:—

Mr. Talbot (Conservative)	2687
Professor Smith (Liberal)	989

This election has no political significance, Professor Smith having alienated the Liberal party by his approval of the foreign policy of the Government, while Mr. Talbot gained all the High Church electors by his condemnation of the Act to "put down Ritualism" which was so earnestly advocated by Lord Beaconsfield.

It is stated that the scrutiny in connection with the double return for South Northumberland will take place in about six weeks' time, and that Mr. Justice Field will be the presiding judge.

The result of the poll for candidates to represent county Down was declared on Saturday. The numbers were—Lord Castlereagh (Conservative), 6,076; and Mr. Andrews, Q.C. (Liberal), 4,701. The late member, Mr. Sharman Crawford, was a Liberal. A telegram was received from Lord Beaconsfield after the declaration, stating that he felt "encouraged by the distinguished demonstration of the electors of the county Down in favour of the policy of the Government."

At a meeting of the local heads of the Liberal party at Canterbury on Saturday, it was determined to recommend to the constituency Mr. Charles Edwards, who formerly represented the borough of Windsor.

At a meeting of the chairmen of the various polling districts in East Kent, held at Canterbury on Saturday, it was unanimously resolved to recommend Mr. Edmund F. Davis, of St. Peter's, Thanet, as a Liberal candidate for East Kent.

THE HOWARD ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the committee of this association, 5, Bishopsgate Without, E.C., was held on Wednesday. There were present Mr. Edmund Sturge (in the chair), Mr. Lightly Simpson, Mr. James Henderson (one of Her Majesty's Sub-Inspectors of Factories), and other gentlemen. A variety of business and correspondence was brought before the committee. Amongst other matters, the secretary (Mr. William Tallack) mentioned that on recently revisiting some of the convict prisons he had been gratified to observe that progress is being made in the classification and industrial training of the prisoners. At Chatham, in particular, he noticed that the convicts appeared to be better circumstanced, in some respects, as to food, clothing, and medical care, than many honest labourers outside. It was objectionable that, even in appearance, prisoners should be better off than well-conducted members of the community. But under the existing conditions of protracted sentences with associated labour, such discrepancies are practically unavoidable, in order to preserve the convict's life and health; whereas with separate imprisonment, both shorter and sharper, the disadvantage might to a large extent be obviated, with more penal and reformatory effect. A curious incident was mentioned by one of the committee, who, on visiting a provincial prison some years ago, found one of the prisoners (probably awaiting trial) busily engaged in writing. On inquiry into the nature of his literary labours, he was informed that it consisted in the composition of sermons for clergymen outside. The committee passed a cordial vote of thanks to their colleague, Mr. Francis Peck, for his able and useful paper on "The Miscarriage of Justice" in the *Contemporary Review* of last month.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1878.

THE WEEK.

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF is to-day expected back in London from St. Petersburg. Though great secrecy is still observed in official quarters relative to his mission, the indications are for the most part favourable. His Excellency appears to have been received by the Czar with great cordiality, and during his visit the tone of the entire Russian Press became suddenly and singularly pacific and yielding. On the one hand, we are warned from Berlin against rash and premature hopes of peace, on the ground that the concessions of which Count Schouvaloff is affirmed to be the bearer are not in themselves sufficient to ensure a pacific solution, and that much still remains to be done by negotiations. On the other hand, there is general agreement in the reports from St. Petersburg that a conciliatory spirit is in the ascendant, and that a Congress will probably be held some time next month. The *Times* correspondent indicates the extent of the concessions which the Czar is prepared to make. His Majesty makes the retention of Kars a *sine quâ non*, but does not, it appears, lay very great stress on the acquisition of Batoum, and is quite ready to rectify the proposed frontier in Armenia so as entirely to leave outside of Russian territory the important commercial road from Trebizond through Erzeroum and Bayazid to Persia. As to the delimitation of the new Bulgarian State, the Russian Government are said to be quite willing that the southern boundary should be determined by a European Commission according to the nationality of the inhabitants, and that, if necessary, there should be two autonomous provinces instead of one; that the term of Russian occupation of Bulgaria may be considerably shortened; and that the political constitution of that State shall be settled by a European instead of a Russian Commission—a very vital concession. It is also believed that the Czar's Cabinet is ready to remove some of the serious objections to the proposed indemnity, by which Turkey becomes practically the vassal of Russia. Possibly before the debate now proceeding in the House of Commons is concluded it may be in the power of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to make some reassuring announcement relative to Count Schouvaloff's mission.

"All's well that ends well." The Porte has had a bad half-hour. A day or two ago, after the negotiations for the surrender of the ceded Turkish fortresses had fallen through, General Todleben put a portion of his army at San Stefano in motion, threw out skirmishers, and advanced nearer to Constantinople—some Cossacks actually demanding the surrender of a position held by Turkish soldiers. The poor Sultan was almost thrown into fits at this ominous event, till the new Russian ambassador explained to His Majesty that the movement of troops was not intended as a menace, but was solely ordered for sanitary reasons! This is not the only alarm to which the Sultan has been exposed. On Monday a band of Mussulman refugees appeared before the residence of the

ex-Sultan Murad, and attacked it, but were repulsed; their apparent object being to place Murad again on the Ottoman throne. It is said that a conspiracy for that purpose has been discovered, and that many arrests have been made.

No sooner have the insurgents of Thessaly agreed to lay down their arms on the terms negotiated by the British consuls, than the released Turkish troops were sent to Crete to assist in subduing the rebellious Christian population, with whom a truce had for some time been observed. For the last few days the conflict has been renewed, but an assurance was on Monday night given in the House of Commons that Her Majesty's Government have strongly urged the Porte to grant a suspension of hostilities.

The great debate in the House of Commons on the Constitutional question involved in the removal of Indian native troops to Malta without the previous consent of Parliament, which began on Monday, was resumed last night, and stands further adjourned till tomorrow, when, we suppose, a division will be taken, unless meanwhile unexpected events should occur. Apparently the question at issue would have lost nothing of importance had the debate been limited to two nights, and much needless repetition of argument would have been avoided. As was expected, the amendment of Sir M. Hicks-Beach and the speech of Lord Beaconsfield have made the issue one of confidence in the Government. There are no present signs that any Conservatives, Mr. Newdegate excepted, are disposed to break away from their party on constitutional grounds. But there can be little doubt that whatever the result of the division, the effect of the debate will be salutary—in the first place, in checking any tendency to unduly exalt the prerogatives of the Crown, and in the second, in warning the public against putting implicit confidence in statesmen who make so light of constitutional safeguards.

The hopes expressed by us last week relative to the Reading election have, we are glad to say, been fully realised. Mr. George Palmer was returned on Friday by a triumphant majority of 650 on the largest vote ever polled in the borough; and his success was not the less marked as he had throughout courageously advocated views on the Eastern Question analogous to those held by Mr. Bright, and entirely at variance with the opinions of the late member, Sir Francis Goldsmid. Some of the special features of this contest which add to its significance are pointed out by a correspondent elsewhere. The Government cannot draw much comfort from the large majority secured by Mr. Talbot at the Oxford University election. That respectable Conservative mediocrity is the ideal of the High-Church clergy who preponderate in the University constituency, and who see in their chosen representative a man who will vote right for Church interests, and who has always supported clerical claims in respect to the Burials question. To a large extent these outside voters do not share the views of the Government on the Eastern Question, but the opinions of Professor Smith on this point were too vague to induce them to forsake their party traditions, and Mr. Talbot has come in by an immense majority. Ministers have actually gained a seat for the county of Down by the return of Lord Castlereagh in place of the late Mr. Sharman Crawford—an event which Lord Beaconsfield has thought worthy of special congratulation. It seems that in this constituency the farmers are very amenable to landlord pressure, and Mr. Andrews, the Liberal candidate, being a Unitarian, was obnoxious to many of the electors on theological grounds. Last week we briefly noticed the unopposed return of Mr. B. T. Williams for the Carmarthen Boroughs, in place of Sir T. Stepney, who has retired. This is a distinct gain to the Liberal party in the House of Commons, and to the phalanx of independent Welsh members. Mr. Williams is one of the ablest speakers at the Bar, a staunch Nonconformist and a thorough Liberationist.

The adjournment of the debate on Lord Hartington's resolution over Monday displaced the Scotch Church question, which was to have been discussed last night. We observe that Mr. W. Holms has now fixed his motion relative to the various religious denominations in Scotland for June 18—the evening fixed for the banquet in commemoration of the Repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts, and therefore hardly suited to his purpose. The question may possibly stand over for the present session. At all events Mr. Holms should be aware that neither the Liberals of Scotland, nor the Presbyterian bodies outside the Church of Scotland, are at all urgent in favour of his preliminary inquiry. The main facts are well known, and a Government Commission would probably do much to obscure them. The course proposed by the hon. member for Paisley is, it will be seen, strongly and cogently condemned by the United Presbyterian Synod, which held its annual session last week, and passed resolutions in favour of immediate disestablishment and disendowment in Scotland. We hope that if the question is raised at all during the present session, it will be raised in a direct form.

Since Friday last there have been no further disturbances in the North-East districts of Lancashire where the strike prevails. But the operatives are for the most part still averse to the proposal made in their interest, accepted by the masters, and endorsed by Lord Shaftesbury and Mr. Mundella, that they should return to work at the ten per cent. reduction, and reconsider the question with their masters after the lapse of three months, when there may be a decided revival in the cotton manufacture. It is said to be doubtful if the operatives generally will agree to the ballot on the subject which the weavers of Blackburn have accepted. In several districts an uneasy and bitter feeling still prevails, which requires the local authorities to be on the alert.

One of the most successful of the annual meetings of the Peace Society was held last night at the Weigh House Chapel. Since the autumn the work undertaken by this and other organisations for checking the anti-Russian and war fever has been unremitting. Happily it has not been without result, as the statements made by Mr. Richard, M.P., in the interesting speech reported elsewhere, go to show. Apparently we are on the eve of a pacific settlement of our differences with Russia, or, at least, of the assembling of the long-deferred Congress. But there are abundant indications that the opposition to a war policy is both deep, passionate, and without precedent under similar circumstances, and that this spirit of antagonism pervades the most thoughtful and intellectual classes, and especially the great mass of intelligent working men. We believe that from such barriers in the way of an aggressive policy even Lord Beaconsfield would shrink when the crisis arrived. And we have greatly to thank the Peace Society and other kindred bodies for so effectually eliciting the opinion of the country.

It is much to be regretted that the recent dastardly attempt on the life of the Emperor William has created something like a panic in Court and high political circles. One effect has been to precipitate the resignation of Dr. Falk, the Minister of Justice and Public Worship, which, however, partly from fear of alienating Prince Bismarck, His Majesty is not likely to accept. A more serious result is the introduction of a bill into the German Parliament "for the Repression of Social Democratic excesses," which has already been accepted by the Federal Council. Amongst other things the measure authorises the Council to prohibit or suppress associations and prints intended to promote Social Democratic objects, and permits the local police to seize such publications without previous judicial sanction. This reactionary bill has excited much alarm among all sections of the Liberal party, and is likely to be rejected by the German Parliament at the risk of a dissolution.

SKETCHES FROM THE GALLERY.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, Tuesday night.

The condition of affairs in the House of Commons is daily growing worse. The Obstructionists, of whom there are really only four, have taken entire possession of the House, and do with it pretty much as they will. With that readiness to discover opportunities for making themselves obnoxious which has always distinguished them, they have recently discovered that a fertile field of delay is to be found in debates in committee of supply. In former years Mr. Dillwyn, Mr. Monk, and one or two other members below the gangway on the Opposition side used to be regarded with intense vexation by Ministers, because they showed a disposition, by no means general throughout the House, to inquire closely into the various items of expenditure. But now, as the Ministers in charge of the various departments sit hopeless and helpless on the Treasury bench while Mr. Parnell makes a long speech, to be followed in due course by Mr. O'Donnell, Mr. Biggar, and Mr. O'Connor Power, they sigh for the halcyon days gone by, when an hour or two were appropriated by the economists below the gangway, and votes were granted after one, or at most two, divisions.

Now there is no end to the talk and no limit to the divisions. When Mr. Parnell has made a long speech, Mr. O'Donnell will deliberately rise from the bench behind him, and, having succeeded in fixing his eye-glass—an innocent instrument responsible for much delay in an Imperial Parliament—he is able to oppose the vote from a new quarter. When he is done, Mr. Biggar rises, and has his say, and then comes Mr. O'Connor Power with the judicial summing up of the various objections. By this time Mr. Parnell is rested, and is able to make another speech—for in committee a man may speak as often as he pleases on a question before the House. A new train of thought is suggested to Mr. O'Donnell, a fresh light breaks in upon the narrow mind of Mr. Biggar, and Mr. O'Connor Power has renewed opportunities of summing up. Sometimes an unwary or ill-trained member in another part of the House will join in the discussion. Occasionally a Minister in charge of the Estimates will (as Sir H. Selwin-Ibbetson did on Thursday night) lose his temper—an incident which is a perfect windfall to the Obstructionists. Here is another and equally illimitable path open to them; and if it were not vexatious it would be amusing to observe the gravity with which they reprove the Minister for his impatience, and above all for using strong language. Strong language is what the Obstructionists cannot stand—that is, from others.

On this same Thursday night, however, they had strong language forced upon them from an unexpected quarter. They had been going on for two hours discussing and rediscussing the question whether the Queen's Colleges, at Dublin, should have envelopes and note-paper, or whether envelopes and note-paper should be withheld from the Queen's Colleges, at Dublin. The House was nearly empty, though there was a strong force in attendance in other parts of the House. A little diversion had been effected by the Secretary to the Treasury losing his temper as hinted at; and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, bullied and bewildered, had further assisted the waste of time by blundering into a very questionable statement of opinion with respect to the ruling of the chairman of committees. These little advantages had been made the most of, and the thing was beginning to flag when, of all men in the world, Mr. Cave, the member for Barnstaple, rose. This gentleman has been in Parliament for thirteen years, and I do not believe he has spoken thirteen times. Although a constant attendant upon the House, his personal identity is unfamiliar to the majority of members; and first of all it had to be ascertained who was this quiet-looking man who rose from behind the front Opposition bench. The marvel and astonishment, not unmixed with delight, spread through the House when it was found that Mr. Cave was putting into plain language the general opinion current with respect to the conduct of Mr. Parnell and his confederates. "Conspirators," Mr. Cave called them, in the heat of the moment; but, as Major Nolan sarcastically reminded him, "confederates" was a more Parliamentary word, having been used in the same application by Mr. Cathorne Hardy in the red heat of debate. But worse was to follow; Mr. Cave not stopping short of denouncing Mr. Parnell as "a curse to the kingdom"—a decidedly unparliamentary phrase, which, in the excitement of the moment consequent upon this outbreak, escaped

the notice of the chair. It is perhaps useful to have the truth plainly put in the House, and it is certainly high time that the House itself stated it in formal and authoritative language. Mr. Cave's little outburst had the same effect as other incidents of the same sort, which chiefly serve to pass the time and afford the Obstructionists fresh topics for conversation.

This long squabble was simply a preliminary to the standing dish of controversy known as the Irish Sunday Closing Bill. In respect of this Obstruction appears in a fresh phase—the Obstructionists being divided among themselves, some going on one side and some on the other. The consequence on Tuesday was that the House had to sit up all night, not adjourning till twenty-five minutes to ten on Wednesday, and then having the satisfaction of knowing that not a single step had been made in advance. On Thursday the sitting adjourned at the comparatively early hour of two in the morning, by which time the first clause of the bill had been passed. The disruption of all arrangements consequent on the conduct of the Obstructionists made necessary a morning sitting on Friday. But of this fully one-half was occupied by an Irish Railway Bill. For the rest of the day there is to be reckoned a discussion on the appointment of Colonel Wellesley to the post of First Secretary of the Embassy at Vienna, which resulted in a triumph of authority over criticism, represented by a division in which 250 voted against the amendment of the appointment and 83 in its behalf. After this hon. members felt that they had done enough of work for the week, and when at nine o'clock the speaker took the chair, the house was promptly counted out.

The Eastern Question has been kept much in the background pending the arrival of news of the result of Count Schouvaloff's mission. But last night the campaign reopened; Lord Selborne in the House of Lords and the Marquis of Hartington in the other House, raising on Constitutional grounds the question of the legality of the employment of Indian troops without the consent of Parliament. The Ministerialists literally had no defence; and, in the House of Commons at least, they followed the old axiom of abusing the plaintiff's attorney. Of course the man selected was Mr. Gladstone, the mention of whose name by a Minister in the House of Commons is sufficient to arouse the honest Conservative from the profoundest slumber. It was Sir Michael Hicks-Beach who trotted out the red flag to-night, though the effect was chiefly disastrous to himself. He quoted some words Mr. Gladstone used in the debate on the vote of credit, wherein the right hon. gentleman had pointed out how, whilst Parliament was sitting, it was open to the Government at any moment to take what steps they pleased as the Executive, coming down to the House "at the earliest possible moment" to ask its approval. It seems incredible that a man who has had so much experience as a debater as the new Colonial Secretary should have quoted this passage without seeing its direct bearing on the case. The Conservatives attempted to cheer it, but their cries were drowned by the uproarious counter-cheers of the Liberals, who saw its obvious bearing. One consequence of the demonstration was that Sir Michael Hicks-Beach sadly marred a peroration upon which he had evidently spent much pains.

As a whole, Monday night's debate in both Houses was unemotional. In the Lords there was during the earlier part of the evening the advantage of a brilliant assemblage, the Prince of Wales, the Princess of Wales, and the Crown Prince and Princess of Germany gracing the scene. The House of Commons was moderately full, but towards nine o'clock the attendance had diminished to eight members, threatening the proceedings with an ignominious collapse. From this dilemma the House was rescued by Mr. Dillwyn, who made a brief and unprepared speech, which at least sufficed to carry the House over this dangerous period of the sitting. There being no resolution before the House of Lords, the debate closed after the characteristically audacious speech from the Premier. In the Commons it dragged on till after midnight, and was then adjourned—for, alas! more essays were evidently stored in the pockets of certain hon. members.

Mr. Fawcett resumed the debate to-night, and narrowed the matter to its logical conclusion by promising, if Lord Hartington's motion were lost (as of course it will be) on going into Committee of Supply, to move a resolution to the effect that since India can send troops over to the assistance of England her military expenditure must be

excessive and should be reduced. The Attorney-General followed. But the speech of the evening, and indeed of the debate, was Mr. Gladstone's. The ex-Premier was perhaps at his best to-night from every point of view. His speech was free from those personal considerations which, though apparently unavoidable, have the effect of lowering the character of debate. He was free to argue upon the grave Constitutional question raised, and this he did with a mastery of the subject, a vigour, and an eloquence that silenced even his noisy interrupters on the other side of the House. As for the Liberals, they cheered in quite an unaccustomed manner, and it was instinctively felt, as it has often been during the last three years, that after all there is no one in the House of Commons who can reach to the height of Mr. Gladstone. After this, as happened at the same hour last night, the debate collapsed, and nearly came to an untimely end, the Speaker actually rising to put the question. From this dilemma Mr. Balfour rescued the debate and the House and the former, which has gone on all night, will be resumed on Thursday. But Mr. Gladstone has said everything that could be said, and the only tinge of curiosity that colours men's minds at this moment is to know how the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in winding up the debate, will be able to dispose of this great speech.

THE CROWN AND THE INDIAN ARMY.

Monday's debate in the House of Lords was opened by Lord SELBORNE, who directed attention to the movement of Indian troops to Malta, but stated that it was not his intention to call in question the policy of the Government on the present occasion in ordering that movement. What he complained of as unconstitutional was that no previous notice of it had been given to Parliament, and in support of this view he appealed to the authority of Lord Clarendon. He also contested the legality of the proceeding, for he contended that the previous consent of Parliament should have been obtained in its favour whenever there existed a reasonable opportunity of applying for it. Both the written law and the known practice and usage of Parliament were against what had been done by the Government, and he maintained that, in reference to the number of troops to be kept up, Great Britain and Ireland comprehended all the dependencies and possessions of the kingdom, the army being the Imperial standing army of the realm for the defence of all the possessions of the country and for the preservation of the balance of power. He argued from the words of the Mutiny Act it was against the law to exceed the number of men voted for the year except by those who were actually serving in India, observing that in the present instance Parliament had not been allowed an opportunity of exercising its judgment on the matter, and he quoted various precedents in support of the several points he was contending for. It was, he said, the very essence of the Constitution that no Ministry should rely merely on its majority, when there were checks provided which would give Parliament an opportunity of forming an unbiased judgment on the measure proposed to be adopted, and he terminated his speech by justifying himself for not concluding with any motion.

The LORD CHANCELLOR said that every Government was on occasions of emergency obliged to act on its judgment, but it was the intention of the present Government to lay before the House of Commons at the earliest moment an account of the expenditure necessary for the maintenance of the Indian troops in consequence of their movement to Malta. He referred to the terms of Lord Hartington's motion, which he said differed from the proposition of Lord Selborne, and he could not understand why a simultaneous discussion should be fixed in the two Houses of Parliament to discuss two different propositions. He proceeded, after being called to order, to comment on Lord Hartington's motion, which could not be defended, as far as he was aware, by any authority. He said that if the Government believed that by what they had done they had strained or violated the Constitution, they would as soon as possible apply to Parliament for an indemnity; but he maintained that they had committed no act requiring them to take that step, and, after replying to the arguments founded on the precedents quoted by Lord Selborne, contended that the prerogative of the Crown with regard to the movement of troops was not limited to the cases referred to, adding that there existed no statute law to prevent the movement of the Indian troops to Malta. He asserted that there was no foundation for Lord Selborne's proposition, and he was satisfied with regard to the policy of the measure adopted by the Government that that policy was approved by the country at large.

After some remarks from Lord CARDWELL and Lord NAPIER and ETTICK, from the Duke of RUTLAND, who said that by the conduct of the Government a great slight had been shown to Parliament, and from Lord DENMAN, Lord GRANVILLE observed that he never knew an instance in which Parliament had been more cavalierly treated than in the present case. With regard to the subject of discussion, he stated that he could not conceive why the Government did not come to Parliament and inform it of their intentions.

Lord BRACONSFIELD did not think it would be to the public advantage that a statement of the movement of the Indian troops should have been prematurely made. He believed that the Government had a perfect right to advise the Queen to exercise her undoubted prerogative in this matter, for there was no allusion in the Mutiny Act to the Native Indian Army. If Lord Selborne believed that the Government had violated the Constitution he ought to come forward and assert his opinion by bringing the matter to a clear and distinct issue. Throughout the whole of the business the Government had been animated by one feeling—namely, to secure the blessings of peace, to maintain the just position of this country and the freedom of Europe, but it would be perfectly impossible to meet discussions like the present at this moment without entering into details which would prejudice those great objects.

The discussion then terminated.

In the House of Commons the debate on the movement of troops from India attracted a very large audience, both in the body of the House and in the Strangers' Galleries. Before the debate commenced, in answer to Mr. Rylands, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said that, not counting the cost of the Indian troops, the monthly expenditure for the army in excess of the estimates is about £140,000, and, in addition, the Imperial charges of the Cape war were 5,000*l.*, and the Colonial charges, 20,000*l.* The naval charges in excess of the estimates are about 60,000*l.* monthly, but the supplementary estimates cannot be laid on the table before Whitsuntide.

The orders of the day having been postponed,

The Marquis of HARTINGTON moved his resolution declaring that by the Constitution of the realm no forces may be raised or kept by the Crown in time of peace without the consent of Parliament within any part of the dominions of the Crown, excepting only such forces as may be actually serving within Her Majesty's Indian possessions. At the outset he said he had purposely narrowed the issue to be voted on, partly because he did not wish at present to provoke a discussion on the general policy of the Government after the Ministerial declaration that it would be injurious while delicate negotiations were going on, and partly because he thought the question raised sufficiently important to be discussed on its own merits. The claim set up by the Government was that troops raised in India and not voted by Parliament could be transferred by the prerogative of the Crown from India and used in the other dominions of the Crown. That was the claim which the Opposition denied, asserting, on the other hand, that it was in India only that forces could be raised and maintained without the authority of annual votes by Parliament, and that when the Indian forces were transferred to any other part of Her Majesty's dominions they became subject to the conditions regulating the other forces of the Crown. Adverting first to the principles which govern the relations between the Crown, Parliament, and the army, he maintained that Parliament had always claimed a power over the standing army distinct from its general financial control, and that any increase after the Estimates had been voted must be sanctioned by Parliament, not merely generally, but by a vote of the actual numbers. Dealing next with the position of the Indian Army, he described it as a non-Parliamentary army, and it was a fallacy therefore to describe this measure as a mere movement of a portion of Her Majesty's troops from one portion of her dominions to another. The Act of 1858 declared that these troops should not be used in military operations at the cost of India without the sanction of Parliament; but in this case that Act had been violated. When used outside India in time of peace these Indian troops must be voted by Parliament; and in proof of this he quoted the speech of General Peel in 1864 when Indian regiments were retained in China after the war. On the financial aspects of the question Lord Hartington contended that the conduct of the Government had broken the rules devised for the protection both of the British and Indian Exchequers; and, examining the various excuses which had been offered for concealing the step from Parliament, he showed that they were quite insufficient, and could have had no other object but to assert a prerogative. He had no desire to restrict the movement, but the House had the right to be informed of it. The amendment was a vote of confidence moved by the Government in itself, and this expedient might be used by a Government with a majority to cover any breach of the Constitution.

Sir M. HICKS-BEACH moved an amendment declaring that, as the control of Parliament over the military forces of the Crown is sufficiently secured by law and the power of refusing supplies, it is inexpedient to pass a resolution weakening the hands of the Government in the present state of foreign affairs. The Conservative party, he said, could never object to any jealousy being shown on behalf of the Constitution, and he regarded it as a good auspice for the future that this jealousy was shown by one who was a member of the Government which advised the Royal Warrant on Purchase. The Government maintained that in this matter they had acted for the best interests of the country without violating in one tittle the law or the Constitution; and if the leaders of the Opposition had really been of opinion that the Government had acted unconstitutionally, was it

not likely that they would have proposed a resolution in the House of Lords, and that Lord Hartington would not have moved a direct vote of censure, instead of a mere motion in the form of a constitutional truism? Lord Hartington's arguments as to the position of the Indian Army, he maintained, would go to prevent the Crown making any use of it outside India. On the contrary, he asserted that the Indian Army was as much the Queen's army as any part of the forces, and that there was nothing in any of the Acts of Parliament and nothing in Constitutional usage to prevent the Crown moving its Indian troops to any part of the Empire, except to the United Kingdom. The Indian Army, he contended, was raised with the sanction of Parliament, and the Act of 1858 contemplated its employment outside India in cases of emergency without the special sanction of Parliament. As practical instances of this he mentioned the garrisoning of Hongkong and Singapore from 1867 to 1871 by Indian troops. Lord Hartington's contention that the prohibition of the Bill of Rights applied to the whole dominions of the Crown and not merely to this kingdom was entirely unwarranted by law; and as one proof of this, he cited the case of the German Legion, which was not allowed to serve in this kingdom, but served in Malta and at the Cape. There were also colonial forces raised for the service of the Crown which were never voted by Parliament. In order to insure the successful carrying out of the measure, it was necessary that the sanction which had been given to it by the Government should be kept secret. The Government had taken this step because they believed that a sufficient emergency existed, and because they knew that, in spite of the persistent efforts to mislead foreign nations as to the feeling of the country, to minimise our strength, and to depreciate the valour and loyalty of our forces, it would receive the approbation of the country; and he appealed to the House to support the Government against petty cavils, ceaseless misrepresentations, and vulgar personalities. At this there were loud cries of "order" and "withdraw," until the Colonial Secretary explained that he referred not to members of the House, but to certain persons outside; and he concluded his speech by again appealing to the House to make it clear to the world that if danger arose the whole of the Empire would be drawn on for our defence.

Sir C. DILKE deprecated the extension of the debate over the wide range of the Eastern Question, and denied that there was any wish on that side of the House to limit the right of the Crown to employ these Indian troops. All that was contended was that Parliament should sanction it. Mr. GOLDNEY, Mr. M'IVER, and Mr. RITCHIE defended the policy of the Government, while Mr. DILLWYN and Mr. OSBORNE MORGAN supported the resolution. Mr. LAING, arguing the question from an Indian point of view, insisted that this policy was a reversal of all the principles and conditions on which the Indian army had been reorganised after the Mutiny and would be attended with dangerous consequences. Mr. CHAPLIN admitted the duty of the Opposition to raise the question, but objected to the resolution because it seriously infringed the just prerogative of the Crown.

Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT did not charge the Government with any sinister design of violating the Constitution, but simply with ignorance of Constitutional and Parliamentary practice, and this he illustrated from the speech of the Colonial Secretary, who, he said, had not answered, but had nibbled at Lord Hartington's arguments. What, he asked, was the claim of the Government? Either it must go so far as to assert the right of the Crown to maintain any army it pleased outside the United Kingdom without the consent of Parliament, or the resolution could not be controverted. He denied that the power of refusing supplies was a sufficient control, and contended that the Indian army had been deliberately placed on a different footing from the British army, and before it could be employed outside India certain steps must be taken to place it in the same relations to Parliament as the standing army. The law protecting the finances of India had been violated, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer had deliberately repeated the offence for which he apologised so humbly at the time of the Abyssinian expedition. Personally he was ready to place the whole forces of the Empire at the service of the Government to assert the right of Great Britain and Europe to have a voice in the settlement of the Eastern Question. But they would find the cordial co-operation of the House of Commons as valuable an assistance as an Indian contingent.

Mr. E. STANHOPE, who concluded the debate for the evening, remarked that if any excuse were desired by the Government for its reticence it would have been furnished by the proceedings of the last fortnight, and if they had made a communication to Parliament it was evident that they would have been overwhelmed with interrogatories and technical objections. The passing of such a resolution, he showed, would gravely hamper the Government and impair the strength of the country in dealing with emergencies; and the Bill of Rights, he contended, had never been intended to apply to any such danger as was now apprehended. The financial control of Parliament was sufficiently secured, for Parliament could even now send these troops back by refusing the vote which would be submitted; but to insist on the too strict application to technical rules was unwise and inexpedient.

The debate was adjourned on the motion of Mr. FAWCETT.

Last night the preceding Motions and Orders of the Day having been postponed, the adjourned debate on Lord Hartington's resolution was resumed by Mr. Fawcett, who said that the claim set up by the Government was that the Indian Army might be drawn on indefinitely to assist this country in a European conflict, but this was so serious an innovation that the people of this country ought to be consulted before it was adopted. It was a mean and ungenerous thing to call upon India to shed her blood in defence of British interests, and if these forces could be spared it followed that India was called on to bear a larger military expenditure than was necessary for her own defence.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL replied to Mr. Fawcett that the Government was ready to enter into a general discussion, and it was not their fault if it was confined to a strictly legal and constitutional issue. Criticising the language of the resolution, which he characterised as astute and forensic, attributing it to Lord Hartington's legal advisers, he contended that though founded on the Bill of Rights and the Mutiny Act, it recited them incorrectly, and the proposition it laid down was, therefore, unsound. The Bill of Rights, he contended, only applied to the kingdom and the Mutiny Act to the United Kingdom, and in dealing with the Bill of Rights the Attorney-General expressed an opinion—from which there was much dissent—that it was not declaratory in this respect of the Common Law, and that before it the Crown had power to raise and enroll troops within the kingdom.

Mr. GLADSTONE, after some remarks on the general policy of the Government and on the Purchase Warrant, proceeded to reply to the Attorney-General, charging the Government with having acted both unconstitutionally and illegally. In the first place, they had acted unconstitutionally, inasmuch as, though knowing of this charge, they had framed and carried through the Budget without making any provision for it; and in the next place, they had placed Parliament under a virtual compulsion to vote money for purposes on which they had never been consulted. Although at times a Government could not escape the necessity of anticipating expenditure, it must be on matters which did not fetter the discretion of Parliament. They had acted illegally because they had violated the Bill of Rights, and here he asserted, in contradiction to the Attorney-General, that the Bill of Rights declared the ancient Common Law, and that it applied not merely to the kingdom but to the whole dominions of the Crown, quoting the debates of 1775 and the preamble of the bill itself. The Government had also violated the Indian Government Act, which, he maintained, did not merely protect the Indian revenue, but limited the power of the Crown to move the Indian troops outside the frontiers. After touching on the question of secrecy, which he asserted was entirely needless, Mr. Gladstone proceeded to protest against the contention of the Government, which he understood to be that outside the United Kingdom the Crown could keep up any force it pleased, and move its army to any part of the Empire without consulting Parliament, as long as it was not placed under the necessity of asking for supplies. This he denounced as a sacrifice of the liberties which have come down to us, and though he should regard it as nothing less than a national calamity if the resolution were voted down by the majority, it was, nevertheless, the duty of the minority to face that risk and to take a division.

Mr. BALFOUR, discussing the precedent of 1775, disputed the accuracy of Mr. Gladstone's description of it, and contended that what was said then would not bring India within the Bill of Rights. Sir G. CAMPBELL maintained that, by using the Indian Exchequer, the Government had virtually evaded the financial control of Parliament; and Mr. FORSYTH, while endorsing the constitutional doctrine laid down by the resolution, agreed also with the amendment that the control of Parliament was amply secured. Mr. NEWDEGATE supported the resolution, insisting that the Government had violated the Government of India Act, which was intended to secure that Indian troops should not be used for external purposes without the previous consent of Parliament. The debate was further continued by Sir H. Havelock, Mr. Grantham and Mr. Childers (who replied in detail to some of the arguments of the Attorney-General and Mr. Stanhope), and was then, on the motion of Mr. Cross, adjourned till to-morrow evening.

Earlier in the evening, in reply to Mr. Gourley, the ATTORNEY-GENERAL said that information had been received of the recent purchase of steamships in the United States by persons said to be acting on behalf of Russia, but the Government had no information which would lead to the belief that they were intended to be employed as privateers in contravention of the Treaty of Paris, by which Great Britain and Russia had both agreed to the abolition of privateering. The Government of the United States had no intention of departing from the observance of treaty obligations in the circumstances which called for their application.

Mr. Gladstone has contributed to "Macmillan's Shilling Series" a "Primer of Homer," which is now in the press.

Mr. R. N. Fowler, who represented Penryn and Falmouth in the Conservative interest in the last Parliament, was yesterday elected Alderman of the ward of Cornhill.

Anniversary Meetings.

CONGREGATIONAL TOTAL ABSTINENCE ASSOCIATION.

The annual business meeting of this association was held in the Memorial Hall, Farringdon-street, on Monday evening, the 6th inst., when the president, Mr. Edward Baines, of Leeds, occupied the chair.

Mr. C. J. TARRING, M.A., who is associated with the Rev. G. M. Murphy in the honorary secretaryship, read the fourth annual report, which alluded to the action taken in May last by the Congregational Union of England and Wales, and to the great public meeting held in Leicester during the autumnal session of the Union. The attention of the council had been called to the importance of informing the students of the denominational colleges upon the facts and arguments of the total abstinence question, and preparing them to make use of the aid this principle affords the Christian minister in his warfare against the powers of darkness in the world; and the authorities of these institutions had been requested to permit a deputation from the association to visit and confer with their students upon the subject. Favourable replies had been received from Cheshunt, Nottingham, Brecon, Hackney, Rotherham, Airedale, Plymouth, New College, and Bristol, and some of these places had been visited by deputations, who found that a large proportion of the students were total abstainers. Resolutions upon the subject of intemperance had been passed in the associations of North Bucks, Cornwall, North Devon, Dorset, Suffolk, and Wilts and East Somerset, and several of them had formally recommended the formation of Congregational abstinence societies. In the Berks, South Oxon, and South Bucks Association nineteen churches have temperance organisations, and the ministers of three others are abstainers. In Cornwall six churches have organisations. In Cumberland most of the ministers and evangelists are abstainers, but only three churches have temperance organisations. In East Devon there are five churches with organisations; in North Devon, two; in Leicestershire, nine; and in Dorset, four. Connected with the Gloucestershire and Herefordshire Union is an influential temperance association with fifty ministerial members, and forty-six of the churches have organised temperance societies. In Hunts five towns and villages have active temperance societies, but none formally connected with churches. In the Liverpool district of Lancashire there are thirty-two church organisations, and three more are contemplated. In London sixteen church societies have been reported; in Monmouth, eight; in Somerset, two; and in Sussex, two.

The Treasurer's statement, read by the Rev. G. M. Murphy, showed that the total receipts amounted to 144l. 11s. 7d., and there was a balance in hand of 63l. 3s. 2d.; but to set against that there were considerable liabilities.

The CHAIRMAN, in proposing the adoption of the report, said he looked upon the work of the council with great satisfaction. He did not think they could do a better or nobler work than strike at the root—the youth of the training colleges, who were to be the future teachers of our country. Their chief desire was to win over the honoured ministers of their body, of whom too few were convinced of the importance of the total abstinence principle. Ministers were anxious for the preservation of their own health, and zealous for the spiritual interest of the souls committed to their care. Would not their health be benefited, and their work advanced in every way, if they became total abstainers? He confidently believed that they would win the people more effectually if they abstained from all intoxicating drinks. Nothing had influenced him more than the arguments of Dr. Pye Smith. He never knew so good a man. He was a man of considerable physical powers, and lived till a very old age. He found that total abstinence agreed with him, and urged the great Christian duty of every minister, and every man interested in the health of his fellow man, to set the example of total abstinence. Men now were coming round to their views—men of science, doctors, and ministers—over the whole country.

The Rev. J. S. RUSSELL, M.A., seconded the motion, and remarked that this was the day of small things so far as this Association was concerned; but they had done good work, and had excellent honorary secretaries. He hoped they would soon have an efficient paid officer, who could give his whole time to the work of the society. The money could be got if they had the right man.

After a brief discussion, in which the Rev. G. CALVERT (Sheffield), the Rev. Principal McALL, and the Rev. S. EVERSHED (Burnham), took part, the report was adopted.

The Rev. ROBERT HARLEY, F.R.S., moved—

That the best thanks of the members are hereby accorded to the officers and council for their services during the past year, and that the following be the officers and council of the association for the ensuing year. [Names read, the president and honorary secretaries being re-elected.]

Mr. Harley, who said he had been an abstainer for forty-three years, remarked that in his house at Mill Hill there were fifty resident inmates and no beer-barrel. He thought there should be no difficulty in raising 5000l. a year to engage a secretary and carry on the operations of the society.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. MICHAEL YOUNG, supported by the Rev. G. SNASHALL, B.A., and agreed to.

On the motion of the Rev. G. M. MURPHY, seconded by the Rev. ARTHUR HALL, an alteration was made in the rule regarding membership, which now reads as follows:—

Membership.—Ministers and deacons of Congregational Churches, delegates to the Congregational Union, students in Congregational colleges and institutes, officers and teachers of Sunday-schools, who are abstainers, on payment of not less than 1s. annually. Other Congregationalists, being abstainers, on payment of not less than 2s. 6d. annually.

It was also resolved that the following new rule be inserted in the constitution:—

Affiliated Societies.—Total Abstinence Societies and Bands of Hope, connected with Congregational churches, colleges, and institutes, may be affiliated with the association on payment of not less than 5s. annually.

The Rev. W. ROSE (Horncastle) moved a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was seconded by the Rev. G. HINDS (Leeds), and acknowledged by Mr. BAINES.

THE GENERAL MEETING.

The fourth general meeting of the association was held on Tuesday evening, the 7th inst., in the Lecture Hall of Union Chapel, Islington. The chair was occupied by W. Crosfield, jun., Esq., of Liverpool, and there was a good attendance. After devotional exercises, conducted by the Rev. G. Snashall, of Chesterfield,

Mr. C. J. TARRING mentioned the chief topics of the report, which he had presented to the business meeting the previous evening.

The CHAIRMAN in his opening remarks said our land was being invaded by a foe more brutal, more powerful, than any which was likely to attack or endanger our foreign possessions. The invader was strong drink, and the vanquished poor humanity. The temperance cause was perhaps the greatest movement in which the Christian people of England were ever engaged, and it was one which bore a strong similarity to the anti-slavery movement. He was entering upon the fifth decade of his teetotal career, and he hoped to live to see the day when their work would be accomplished. New branches of the temperance movement were springing up every day, and he thought there was no organisation which had done so much during its brief existence as the Church of England Temperance Association. (Applause.) In West Lancashire there were thirty-two Congregational churches, which had temperance organisations of various kinds springing up around them. He called attention to the cocoa movement in Liverpool. It was unique, for it was one in which pure philanthropy and ten per cent. could go hand in hand. (Laughter and cheers.) In that town thirty cocoa-houses were now in actual operation, and from the time the company started it had never been working at a loss. He hoped the movement would spread to other towns and cities, and that the time would come when temperance drinks would be procurable at all railway stations. (Cheers.)

Mr. EDWARD BAINES, President of the Association, said that he was desirous of producing an impression upon the minds of ministers. He had great regard for Congregational ministers. Many of them were doing a great work, and were a feature of the intellect, the religion, and philanthropy of our land. But, unfortunately, comparatively few ministers had joined the temperance cause. He did not want to use to them the language of reproof, but was desirous of laying facts before them of the evils of intemperance, and of placing beside them the triumphs of total abstinence. He was afraid ministers did not attend their meetings, and were not in the habit of reading temperance literature. He fancied they were so comfortably ensconced in their venerable prejudices, and were so absorbed in their studies, that they did not give to facts and reasons that might be laid before them the attention they deserved. He was disposed to think it was with temperance as it was with religion—they had a great many almost Christians, and a great many almost temperance men, but not quite. (Applause.) He then related, from his own knowledge, several cases in which strong drink had been the ruin of its victims, and in doing so remarked that he wished he had as auditors every one of those eloquent gentlemen who that morning had gathered in the neighbouring beautiful temple. There was no genius so splendid as to be above the seductions of their Satanic enemy. They were there to tell how total abstinence had answered for themselves. He had been an abstainer for forty years. (Cheers.) He did not make a boast of it, because there was no virtue in it, for he felt he had enjoyed more of life than if he had taken ever so little of beer or wine. Total abstinence was consistent with bodily health and vigour, with cheerful spirits, with capacity for all kinds of work, with success in business, with domestic happiness, with the good conduct of children, with economy of living, with moral strength and prosperity, with usefulness to our fellow men, and, generally speaking, with exemption from disease, care, passion, and remorse. The sum of all these things, he said, could be told in the figures of the life insurance officer; for the lives of total abstainers were longer by 27½ per cent. than those of moderate drinkers. (Applause.)

The Rev. HUGH P. HUGHES, one of the secretaries of the temperance committee of the Wesleyan Conference, said the Methodist body was not always

favourable to the temperance movement, but that was all changed now. Though they had not done much, still they had taken a position in advance of any other church in the country, even the Church of England itself. (Cheers.) They had made temperance societies a part of their church organisation, and the Methodist Temperance Committee had received as much assistance from non-abstainers as from abstainers. If their object was to make all men teetotalers, they could not do better than invite non-abstainers to go with abstainers all the way they could. The great difficulty was to get brethren to hear the temperance side of the question. In his opinion, it was high time the Congregational churches should consider what was being done by such conservative bodies as the Church of England, the Methodists, and the Roman Catholics, for these latter were becoming more radical than the most radical of Free Churches. (Cheers.)

The Rev. E. S. PROUT said they felt they were face to face with the tremendous curse of intemperance. It was an evil that could hardly be exaggerated. It was preying upon our national life, and was a grievous hindrance to our national Christianity. What was the remedy for this state of things? In total abstinence they had a remedy which, in a comparatively short time, would work a thorough cure. It was said of temperance people that they were men of one idea. But men of one idea had wrought some of the greatest deliverances in the past. They, however, denied that they were men of one idea. They had endeavoured to look at the question in all its bearings. Instead of being men of one idea, they had tried to take the most comprehensive view of the subject. It had been estimated that 70,000 persons died annually from alcoholic poison in England; and with that fact staring them in the face some people thought it was not needful to take an extreme course in order to grapple with this tremendous evil. The prospect before the young, if the present customs of society continued with regard to alcohol, was very sad; for a certain percentage of the boys and girls in their families, in Sunday-schools, and in Bible-classes, were doomed to grow up to become intemperate. The tide was, however, turning, and they had the honour of being in the van of this movement. Let them keep their position, and see that the churches were at the head of the moral reform, and the pastors at the head of the churches. (Applause.)

Mr. B. W. RICHARDSON, M.A., M.D., LL.D., observed that the progress of the temperance reformation in the world was marked by one certainty of success—namely, that the movement came from the lowest regions of human thought, and was now ascending into that highest intellectual region, in which all thoughts that are to be perpetuated must come, in order to be adapted to our age. The temperance cause sprang from a few simple Lancashire men, who found that even the limited application of alcohol was a danger which had to be avoided if the evils that sprang from it had to be conquered. But it was only in later times that the great influential agencies of the world had been enlisted on the side of the total abstinence movement. The three great agencies of science, religion, and literature, were now going forward in favour of their cause. The movement was taking an entirely different course from what they expected it would; and it was wonderful what had occurred during the past two years. Multitudes of men in all sects of religion, men of science, men of letters, and mere idle men of culture, had come round to consider the question. Even politicians had found out at last that they must take up the movement; and this was one of the signs of the present day. His own work had been the laborious task of investigation by experiment; and to convince men of his class he could only deal with facts. Scientific investigation shows that the alcohol in ordinary use was only one of a series of similarly constituted substances, all of which were poisonous. It was as foolish to say grapes were given us to make alcoholic wine of, as to say that the trees of the forest were given us to distil methylated spirit from, or potatoes to distil fusel oil out of. Alcohol was not a food. When we took food we felt invigorated, when we took alcohol we produced an entirely new order of phenomena. There were the same distinct stages for alcohol as for chloroform, and he could not believe the Divine Being ever intended man to take as a food or beverage that which put his system through such stages. Total abstinence was the only preventive for the evils arising from alcohol. Persons over forty years of age, who had been partakers of wine in moderate quantities, would require from three to four years for their organisms to become completely free from its power. Smokers seldom become total abstainers, because the two poisons acted upon different parts of the organisms, and were antidotal to each other. The great duty of all was to treat the young so that they should never, under any circumstances, know even the first effects of alcohol. He had lately been engaged in making further experiments, and all these led him to the deeper conviction that alcohol had no good qualities whatever. He had stated this before a large body of medical men the other day, and declared that if it could be shown him that the moderate drinker was healthier or happier than the total abstainer, he would give up the whole question; but no one in that body of distinguished medical men could give any reply, for no reply was possible. (Applause.)

On the motion of the Rev. J. S. RUSSELL, M.A., seconded by the Rev. G. M. MURPHY, a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Dr. Allen and his

deacons for the use of the hall, and to the chairman for presiding.

The Rev. Dr. ALLON, in acknowledging the vote, said he trusted that he had never laid himself open to the imputation of anything that was intemperate. He had tried to be temperate in all things, and he very heartily accepted the conditions laid down by Mr. Hughes. He yielded to no man in his intense desire that the unutterable curse of drunkenness should cease from the land. As a minister, his claim for their preaching was an endeavour to induce men to forsake this and other sins. (Hear, hear.) He was thankful for the efforts that were being put forth by good men to diminish the evil, whatever form these efforts assumed. (Cheers.)

The audience having sung the doxology, the meeting closed with the pronouncing of the benediction by the Rev. ARTHUR HALL.

THE BAND OF HOPE UNION.

The annual meetings of the United Kingdom Band of Hope Union commenced on Monday week with a general council, held in the Congregational School-rooms, Falcon-street, Aldersgate-street, at which Mr. Shirley took the chair. Representatives were present from Chelsea, Finsbury, Greenwich, Hackney, Lambeth, Marylebone, Southwark, Tower Hamlets; also from Bath, Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Bedfordshire, Lincolnshire, Cheshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Derbyshire, Suffolk, Surrey, Yorkshire, Essex, and other counties. The report shows that there are now over 2,000 societies in association with the Union. A large portion of the £150 required to enable the committee to offer prizes for the best temperance tales has been received. A special appeal for funds for lectures in elementary schools had met with a liberal response. The year's receipts were £3,622, and the expenditure £3,489, leaving a balance of £133 in hand. The report having been adopted, the meeting adjourned till Tuesday, when Sir Charles Reed presided at the annual breakfast held at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon-street. Breakfast over, the chairman, in opening the proceedings, remarked that as a magistrate it was his experience that poverty, sorrow, and vice almost entirely arose from the evil influences of strong drink, and he was appalled to witness the health and wealth of the nation being wasted in such a manner. On the other hand, he had seen the good effects of temperance principles on the lives of men who had adhered to them for forty or fifty years. Dr. Paterson then delivered an address on "Temperance Teaching in Elementary Schools," in the course of which he stated that he had already commenced courses of lectures on the subject to the children in the London School Board schools, which had been most eagerly attended. He was of opinion that if alcoholic liquors were to be used in the practice of a medical man, they should at least occupy a very high shelf in the laboratory. Several gentlemen having taken part in the discussion which followed the address, the meeting adjourned till the afternoon, when a conference was held in the lower room, Exeter Hall, Mr. E. Clarke presiding. A paper was read by Mr. T. E. Hallsworth on "The Importance of Circulating Temperance Literature in connection with Bands of Hope." Several speakers commented on a plan laid down in the paper, the majority appearing to take a favourable view of the scheme. The company adjourned till the public meeting in the great hall, over which Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P., presided, and in an address which was frequently applauded, said that of late years there had been an evident progress in the great cause the Union was intended to promote the prevention of the evils of drunkenness, which more than all other evils stood in the way of the well-being of the people. That was the cause of the breaking up of thousands of homes. It was said by some that only legislation could get rid of those evils, and they had an evidence the previous night that legislation was at work on the subject, although to the shame of the Government they had not facilitated the passing of the bill then under discussion. After speaking of the characteristic of the Union—that of bringing personal influence to bear where it could be legitimately done, but not inducing children to join it unless with the consent of one of their parents—the chairman said that he looked with interest to the increasing and valuable testimony which was now forthcoming from some of the leading members of the medical profession in favour of total abstinence. Mr. Morley said that himself and others were endeavouring to induce young men in the city warehouses to believe that even the desire for a glass of wine was likely to become a danger; for when it became a matter of personal enjoyment there was commenced an appetite which grew by what it fed upon. He concluded by an earnest appeal that increased personal effort and influence should be brought to bear upon the furtherance of the work of the Union. Other addresses were delivered.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN SCHOOL SOCIETY.

The Dean of Westminster presided on Thursday morning at a breakfast in the dining-room of the British and Foreign School Society, when a portrait of its president, Earl Russell, was presented by the subscribers to the institution. Earl Granville, who was to have presided, was absent through domestic affliction. The portrait is an excellent likeness of the noble Earl in his old age, sitting in his wheelchair under the trees of Richmond Park, dressed in a fur-bound coat, with a fur cap on his head, and

holding a report of the Society in his hand; it is the work of Mr. J. R. Dicksee. After the portrait was unveiled,

Dean STANLEY said Earl Russell had been the president of this Society for the last fifty eventful years. The fact of his lordship's career having extended back for such a long period especially suggested two points in his career. Fifty years ago, Lord Russell was already in public life, and belonged to that comparatively small band of statesmen who came forward in defence of principles which had since become exceedingly popular, but were then under the shade and in the background. (Hear, hear.) As regarded that Society, he was not the first president of the house of Russell, as he succeeded two Dukes of Bedford. That house at that time took the lead amongst the pioneers of all the great measures of reform which had since been so indissolubly associated with their name. No kind of public example was more precious than that of those who advocated principles before they had become universally received. They acted as a standing encouragement to all the rising generation not to be afraid that the cause they advocated would not ultimately succeed because at the moment of their advocacy it possessed the championship only of a few, and had to struggle against great difficulties. The other reflection suggested by the character and career of Lord Russell was this—the fact that they had to go so far back reminded them that he was one of those Liberal statesmen who were in the true sense of the word reformers. (Hear, hear.) They were animated with the passion, not of preserving, nor yet of destroying, but of re-forming. (Hear, hear.) This characteristic had never failed Lord Russell—his constant belief that in the great institutions of this country, and indeed of the world, there was an internal power of regeneration and transformation, to which it was always worth while to go back; that there was no such seed of decay in the British Constitution as to justify any one in giving up in despair the hope that something great and good might be made of it. (Hear, hear.) And what he thought of the Constitution he thought also of all the various institutions of which the British Constitution is made up. He bated no jot or tittle of hope for advancing, developing, recreating the various forces which belonged to the various institutions throughout the nation. The portrait was the work of Mr. Dicksee, who was brought up in those schools, and who first saw Earl Russell fifty years ago when presiding on one of these occasions; it would become the treasured heirloom of the Society—(Hear, hear)—and would bring back to the recollections of those who saw the memorable features in many a year to come how great a boon was bestowed on any society and on any nation by the remembrance of a man who had devoted his whole life-long existence to the welfare, the liberty, and the religion of his fellow-countrymen. (Cheers.)

Mr. J. W. PEASE, M.P., read a letter which had just been received from the Countess Russell, in which she said that the family were much gratified by the feeling which had prompted the subscribers in having the portrait painted, and thought the foundation of a Russell scholarship a very happy idea. Mr. Pease explained that to the subscriptions raised for the portrait others would be added in order to perpetuate the memory of Lord Russell by means of a scholarship to be competed for by students in their institution. (Hear, hear.)

The annual general meeting, the seventy-third anniversary of the society, was held in the new hall of the society's buildings, and was attended by the company who had witnessed the previous ceremony. Lord Fortescue presided. The secretary read the report, which stated, under the head of "regular work," that at the six colleges recognised as the society's, those at the Borough-road, Stockwell, and Darlington, under the direct management of the parent committee, together with those at Bangor and Swansea, locally managed and supported, there were 440 resident students at the beginning of the year. At the three State-aided colleges for which the committee is solely responsible, 323 students were presented for examination for certificates in December, all passing successfully, the majority in the first division. A corresponding success was achieved at the Science and Art examinations in May and November. One hundred and sixty-four left at the end of the year, of whom 160 were at work as teachers, the average salaries being for the young men 100*l.*, and for the young women 75*l.* At the admission examination in July there were no fewer than 852 candidates for 170 vacancies. The practising and other schools managed by the committee had on their registers 1,940 pupils, and their efficiency was attested by the favourable reports of Her Majesty's inspectors and the success of the pupils. The scheme for the local management of the college at Darlington (towards the erection of which Messrs. J. and J. W. Pease had contributed the munificent sum of 7,500*l.*, or nearly one-half of the cost) was given at length in the report. The Chairman moved the adoption of the report. The Hon. and Rev. W. H. Fremantle seconded the motion, which was carried, as were other resolutions spoken to by Mr. Vivian, M.P., Mr. Sydney Buxton, and others.

SEAMEN'S CHRISTIAN FRIEND SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of this society was held at the Institution, opposite London Docks, on Tuesday evening, and was largely attended by seamen and others. The chair was occupied by Lieut.-Col.

Handyside, R.A., and among those on the platform were the Revs. H. Sinclair Paterson, F. Clements, S. Cowdy, LL.D., G. M. Murphy, M.L.S.B., and G. M. Butler, Captain Dalrymple, Henry Stevens, E. Cameron, C.B. The Rev. G. J. Hill (secretary) read an abstract of the thirty-second report, from which it appeared that the missionaries had held 1,400 religious services in Bethel on shore and ships afloat, also boarding-house, open-air, and temperance meetings in the ports of London, Ramsey, Liverpool, Maryport, Whitehaven, &c. 118,800 tracts, magazines, and little books, together with 986 copies of the Scriptures and books in many languages had been distributed. 31 ships had been supplied with parcels of books; 24,000 visits had been made by seamen to the free reading-rooms; and 260 children attended the schools and Band of Hope. An additional sailors' reading-room had just been opened, and an effort was making to secure (for 2,000*l.*) the freehold of the premises in Ratcliff Highway, which had been rented by the society for the past thirty-two years. The income had been 1,279*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.*, expenditure 1,257*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.*, with liabilities for 69*l.* 10*s.* The Rev. F. Clements (Methodist Free Church) moved the adoption of the report, the Rev. Samuel Cowdy, LL.D. (Baptist), seconded it, and Henry Stevens, Esq., supported it. The motion having been put and carried, the Rev. G. M. Murphy (Borough-road Congregational Church), moved the following resolution:—"That this meeting approves of the steps taken by the committee to secure the freehold of the premises in St. George-street, so long rented and used as an institution for seamen, and also of their intention either to alter or rebuild the same, and therefore most earnestly commends this important undertaking to the sympathy and generous aid of the Christian public." The resolution was seconded by the Rev. Dr. Paterson (Belgrave Presbyterian Church), and carried unanimously. Other gentlemen addressed the meeting, and the proceedings closed in the usual way.

AGED PILGRIMS' FRIEND SOCIETY.

The seventy-first annual meeting of this society was held at Exeter Hall (Lower Room) on Monday evening, under the presidency of Mr. James Abbiss, J.P. (treasurer). The meeting was opened with singing, and prayer was offered by the Rev. G. PLAYFORD. Mr. M. MURPHY (secretary) read the report, which stated that since the society was instituted, upwards of 3,800 aged persons had been relieved, 129,000*l.* distributed amongst them in pensions alone, and 6,380*l.* of that amount had been paid during the past year. At the present time 1,056 pensioners were on the books, 110 of whom were recipients of ten guineas per annum, 283 of seven guineas, 487 of five guineas, and the remainder were approved candidates, receiving five shillings per month, who would be advanced to the five-guinea pension as the funds permitted. 105 candidates had been admitted during the past year, and 103 pensioners had been removed by death. Details were then given respecting the Camberwell and Hornsey Rise Asylums. The amount received during the year, from all sources, was 8,256*l.* 9*s.*, but the expenses had exceeded that amount by 27*l.*

The CHAIRMAN remarked that the society was now seventy-one years old, and that few of its original supporters now remained. It therefore needed new friends. Their faith had been rather larger than their purse during the past year, and they had a debt laid upon them in the shape of the gift of a house at Worthing by Colonel Croll. They had disposed of that house, and were now looking for a site at the sea-side to erect another house as a sanatorium for the pilgrims. They had sufficient funds to build the house, but a special fund would be required for the working expenses. The names of some new friends would be proposed as members of the committee, and he trusted they would all work harmoniously and lovingly for the benefit of the aged pilgrims.

The Rev. GEORGE SAVAGE, M.A., moved the adoption of the report and the election of the committee. He hoped the society, though aged, would not die as aged pilgrims must, for it ministered to some of the finest specimens of humanity, and to aged disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Rev. A. J. BAXTER seconded the resolution, and urged the necessity of adhering to the fundamental truths on which the Society was based. The Rev. BURMAN CASSIN, M.A. (rector of St. George's, Southwark), supported the resolution. He thought as the society was for the relief of aged Christian pilgrims it had a double claim upon all Christians for their support. He would welcome to his pulpit any Wednesday evening any minister who would plead its claim, and he would do his best to help the society amongst his people.

Before the resolution was put to the meeting, Mr. Marshall, a member of the committee, inquired if he was at liberty to move an amendment to omit the names of the five gentlemen proposed to be added to the committee. After some warm discussion, the Chairman ruled against the amendment being received, saying that it was competent for the meeting to add to the committee, but not to reject the names proposed. He therefore put the motion to the meeting, and on its rejection by a large majority, said, "You have no committee, then; and I vacate the chair." He then left the hall, accompanied by several of his supporters.

Mr. W. Heathfield, a member of the committee, was then voted to the chair, and a motion for the adoption of the report and the re-election of last

year's committee, without the additional names proposed, was moved by Mr. HOWE, seconded by Mr. J. GADSBY, supported by the Rev. A. J. BAXTER, and carried unanimously.

The Rev. J. BOX proposed, and the Rev. G. PLAYFORD seconded the following resolution, which was also adopted:—

That Rule 4, page 14, be altered, omitting the third line, and inserting after the word "Christ" in the fifth line "whose views are in accordance with the truths of Revelation as embodied in our trust deeds and printed at the end of annual report."

The Rev. E. VINALL moved, and Mr. BOULDEN seconded the following resolution, which was adopted:—

That this meeting has heard with anxiety of the increased pecuniary wants of the institution, in consequence of the larger number of the inmates of the Hornsey Rise Asylum, the maintenance of the building, and the increased payments through the larger allowances which the society agreed to make five years ago to meet the necessities of the pilgrims, consequent upon the now higher prices of living. Therefore, this meeting pledges itself to afford, by means of subscriptions, donations, and congregational collections, the pecuniary aid necessary to enable the committee to meet the demand made upon them.

A vote of thanks to the chairman was also adopted, and the meeting closed with the doxology and benediction.

The annual meeting of the Metropolitan Tabernacle Colportage Association took place last week under the presidency of Mr. Spurgeon. The report showed that the number of men employed had increased from eighteen in 1873, to eighty-six in 1878. The value of the sales reached a total for the year of 6,651l. 19s. 10d., being 1,256l. in excess of the previous twelve months. In addition to the sales 160,000 tracts were distributed. The subscriptions for the year were 3,702l. 16s. 6d., including 545l. 5s. to the capital fund, and 1,991l. 6s. 6d. local subscriptions. The report was adopted.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST MISSIONS.—On Tuesday night the annual meeting of the Primitive Methodist Home and Foreign Missionary Society was held at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, Mr. John Howells in the chair. The Society was established in 1843, and aims at planting at home and abroad churches holding Primitive Methodist views, and assisting such as require aid. The report shows that the Society has 119 ministers and missionaries in England and Wales, who are engaged working forty-eight circuits, besides the Scotch and Irish stations. There have been built during the year nineteen chapels and eight new schools, while four schools have been enlarged. The missionaries of the Society have held 2,129 open-air services, and 173,273 pastoral visits have been paid. There are in Canada seventy-seven missionaries, and in Australia ninety-five, while to the stations of the latter colony three have just gone out. Owing to the Kaffir war the African mission has not been so successful this year. The year's expenditure has been much in excess of the receipts, which were 23,268l. leaving a deficiency of over 4,000l.

Epitome of News.

At a Council held by the Queen at Windsor on Thursday, Her Majesty declared her consent to the marriage of the Duke of Connaught with the third daughter of Prince Frederick Charles of Prussia. The honour of knighthood was conferred upon Col. Henderson, C.B.

The betrothal of the Duke of Connaught was celebrated at Balmoral Castle on Tuesday afternoon. By command of Her Majesty all the tenantry, keepers, and workpeople were invited to Balmoral to drink to the health of the Prince and his intended bride. A large company assembled. Dancing followed, and the rejoicings were kept up till a late hour.

The Prince and Princess of Wales arrived in London on Friday morning, having crossed from Calais in the new twin steamer, the Calais-Douvres, which made the passage in one hour and thirty-five minutes, against an adverse tide and with a fresh south-westerly gale blowing. Very little motion was felt on board. In the afternoon the Prince held a *levée*, on behalf of Her Majesty, at St. James's Palace. The Crown Prince of Germany was present. Presentations were made to the number of about 350. In the evening the Prince of Wales dined with the Earl of Coventry and the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms in St. James's Palace.

The Prince of Wales paid a visit to Her Majesty on Saturday afternoon, and took luncheon with the Queen, the Crown Prince and Princess of Germany, and Princess Beatrice.

On Saturday the Earl of Beaconsfield had an audience of the Queen.

A Cabinet Council was held on Saturday at the official residence of the Premier. All the Ministers were present.

On Sunday the Bishop of Peterborough preached before Her Majesty and the Royal Family.

On Friday night a grand banquet was given by Her Majesty at Windsor Castle, in honour of the visit of the Crown Prince of Germany to this country.

On Monday evening the Queen and Court left Windsor Castle for Balmoral. Her Majesty was accompanied by the Princess Beatrice and by the daughters of the Prince of Wales, the Princesses Victoria and Maud.

On Monday morning the Crown Prince and

Princess of Germany concluded their visit to the Queen at Windsor Castle, and returned to London, where they are expected to remain a fortnight.

On Saturday next, May 25, the Prime Minister will give a full-dress banquet, at his official residence, in Downing-street, in celebration of Her Majesty's birthday. The Prince of Wales has accepted an invitation to be present on the occasion.

Sir Wilfrid Lawson, M.P., has almost recovered from his severe attack of congestion of the lungs, and it is hoped that in a few days he will be able to attend to his Parliamentary duties.

The health of Earl Russell has been in a precarious state all the week, and a fatal result was feared on Friday. His lordship has since somewhat rallied, but is very weak. No material change has taken place since Sunday.

The Hon. Robert Bourke, M.P., Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, is suffering from a severe attack of congestion of the lungs, but is now better.

On Thursday the remains of Mrs. Bright were interred in the graveyard attached to the Friends' Meeting House, George-street, Rochdale. One hundred and fifty of Messrs. Bright's workmen walked in procession.

The *Daily News* understands that the King of the Belgians has accepted the invitation of the committee to become an honorary member of the Aborigines Protection Society.

Captain Sir George Nares is named for a second command of the discovery ship *Alert*. This cruise will not, however, be to the North, the Antarctic rather than the Arctic being the intended scene of her future explorations.

Mr. Henry Richard, M.P., has addressed a letter in Welsh to his fellow-countrymen of the Principality. He points out the imminent danger in which the country now stands in respect of the Eastern complication, and remarks that it is in the power of the people to stay war by speaking against it with such emphasis and unanimity that the Government will dare not go against them. He therefore adjures the Welsh people to give immediate and effective expression to their pacific sentiments.

A South Wales Conference of the opponents of war will be held to-morrow at Aberdare, and it is expected that the trade societies will be well represented on the occasion, and that Mr. Richard, M.P., will be present.

The Registrar-General puts the population of England and Wales in the middle of this year, 1878, at 24,854,397, or 307,088 more than in the middle of last year; the population of Scotland at 3,593,929, an increase of 33,212; of Ireland at 5,433,640, an increase of 97,245, which last number appears very large indeed. The total population of the United Kingdom is stated at 33,881,966, or 437,547 more than at the corresponding period in last year.

The Master of the Rolls gave judgment on Saturday in the case of the petition presented by the Rev. F. Besant, vicar of Sibsey, praying for the removal from the custody of her mother, Mrs. Annie Besant, of Mabel Emily Besant, their child, in the eighth year of her age, on the ground that Mrs. Besant entertains atheistic opinions and peculiar views on the population question. The Master of the Rolls held that Mrs. Besant had on these questions so ruined her reputation that it would be impossible for her to associate with any respectable woman in this country, and as he had come to the conclusion that it would not be for the benefit of the child that she should remain with a person who had lost her reputation, he ordered that the child should be given up to the father.

It appears from returns just completed that during last year 51,873 persons sailed from Liverpool for the United States and British North America, and that 44,990 passengers reached the Mersey from those countries.

In attempting to quell a disturbance which occurred on Saturday night in one of the low quarters of Birmingham, five policemen were seriously injured. One of them, named Copestake, is not expected to recover.

With respect to the murder of Lord Leitrim and his servants, it is confidently accepted as a fact in certain circles that the case for the Crown will be supported by the evidence of an "informant."

The *York Herald* reports that the storm of Saturday was very violent in that county. In the neighbourhood of Doncaster a woman was killed by the lightning, while at Thirsk an immense quantity of glass has been broken by the heavy hail which accompanied the storm.

Within the last ten days sixteen bodies from the Eurydice have been picked up. On Friday six were found in the neighbourhood of Chichester, and on Saturday two more were brought into Portsmouth Harbour. The body of Lieutenant T. A. Burney was brought in the evening to Haslar Hospital. Nothing was done at the wreck on Saturday.

On Monday morning snow fell heavily in the north of Scotland, and the Grampian and Sidlaw ranges are white as in winter. The temperature has become very cold. Lately the weather has been very unsettled.

There was a great meet of bicyclists at Hampton Court on Saturday. About two thousand were present; the spectators were very numerous, the weather was very fine, and the proceedings altogether proved highly successful.

Mr. Leatham, M.P., on Saturday received a deputation from the Huddersfield Temperance Society, which sought to ascertain his views on an English Sunday Closing Bill. He said he heartily

approved of the principle of a Sunday Closing Bill, but before it became law there should be a decided manifestation of public feeling in its favour. He should support amendments similar to those which had been proposed in the measure for Ireland.

Lord Salisbury presided at the fifteenth anniversary dinner of the Newspaper Press Fund, which took place at Willis's Rooms on Saturday evening. Mr. Archibald Forbes proposed the toast of the "Military, Naval, and Auxiliary Forces," Lord Napier of Magdala responding for the army, Lord Clarence Paget for the navy, and Lord Gerard for the auxiliary forces. The toast of the "Foreign Ministers," proposed by Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, M.P., was acknowledged by Count Beust, and among the other speakers were Prince Louis Napoleon, Lord Houghton, the Earl of Dunraven, Cardinal Manning, Mr. Goschen, M.P., and Mr. H. M. Stanley. The subscriptions amounted to about 1,200l. Lord Salisbury, in acknowledging the toast of his health, said that the speeches that evening had shown that "in all these violent party fights which seem to render the nation asunder we do not even disturb by a ripple the profound harmony of national and patriotic sentiment. In this great and almost supreme crisis in the fortune of Europe (he added) I cannot but regard that as a favourable augury. I believe that our happy issue from the difficulties which may now seem to environ us will depend upon the harmony and the unity of that patriotism which will meet every danger except loss of honour."

The annual meeting of the Sunday Society was held on Saturday at Freemasons' Hall, under the presidency of Lord Rosebery. Resolutions were adopted approving the policy of the Government in continuing the Sunday opening of the museums at Kew, Hampton Court, and Greenwich, and asking for an extension of the same arrangement to the national collections in the metropolis. It was also resolved to present a memorial to the president of the Royal Academy, asking for the opening of the Academy on one or two Sunday afternoons during the present season. Among the speakers were Lord Dorchester, Lord Dunraven, Professor Corfield, Mr. Hopwood, M.P., and Mr. Macdonald, M.P.

The Metropolitan Board of Works have resolved not to proceed further with the two bills relating to the water supply of the metropolis, on the ground that there was no chance of their being passed this session.

University College, London, and University College Hospital gain between them 50,000l. by the death of the late Sir Francis Goldsmid, M.P., who was the treasurer of each of these institutions. The deceased baronet has also left 10,000l. to the West London Synagogue of British Jews.

The Archbishop of Dublin, like several other ecclesiastical persons, has been asked his opinion as to the threatening war. In his reply, Dr. Trench admits that war would be "most deplorable"; but he adds:—"I am not prepared to affirm, with my imperfect knowledge, that the war with which we are threatened, and which some people are doing so much to bring upon us, would be unjustifiable. I can conceive circumstances under which it would be necessary."

At a special meeting of the Derby Town Council last week, the mayor announced that Mr. Bass, M.P., had increased his proffered contribution towards the cost of a public park for the town from 1,000l. to 5,000l. It was also stated that Lord Belper had offered a portion of Derwent Park of upwards of forty-eight acres for the sum of 56,633l., or a little more than thirty-five acres for 34,473l.

Two deputations, representing the Yorkshire and Manchester Chambers of Commerce, on Thursday waited on Lord Salisbury, and in pointing out the unfair nature of some of the European tariffs, asked the Government to use its efforts with a view of securing better terms in dealing with British goods. The Foreign Secretary explained that the Ministry was anxious to do anything in its power, but free trade appeared to be retrograding rather than advancing amongst foreign nations. It would be impossible to adopt retaliatory measures, which would in some cases only increase existing difficulties.

The London School Board sat only a quarter of an hour on Wednesday. The arrangements for the examination of candidates for the scholarships to be competed for next June were agreed to, and the Works Committee were instructed to prepare the necessary plans for an infirmary and a swimming-bath in connection with the school-ship Shaftesbury.

The corpses of two more of the men lost in the Eurydice were recovered on Friday. It is feared that the ship is sinking more deeply into the mud, and it is stated that grave doubts are now entertained as to the possibility of raising her.

The Town Council of Maidstone have decided by a majority of two, after a debate of nearly three hours, to open the town library and museum on Sunday afternoon.

The prolonged trial of the Irish will case Bagot v. Bagot was concluded in Dublin on Monday. The jury found that the late Mr. Neville Bagot made the will in question—and left the bulk of his property to his brothers—while he was under a delusion as to his wife's conduct, but they acquitted the defendants of fraud or undue influence. The effect of this finding is a verdict for Mrs. Bagot. A new trial is spoken of.

It is announced that Father Curci will be nominated cardinal *à latere* in the next Consistory.

On Saturday the Pope received a deputation from the English Catholic Union, headed by the

The physicians insist on the necessity of the Pope's quitting the Vatican in July for Monte Cassino.

Earls of Denbigh and Gainsborough. His Holiness, referring to the re-establishment of the Roman hierarchy in England and Scotland, expressed a hope that "the works of the good Catholics in those countries might restore to the bosom of the Church all the children of the nation which was formerly called 'the land of saints.'"

President Hayes has recommended the Senate to appropriate the sum awarded to the Fishery Commission with such discretion to the executive of the Government in regard to its payment as, in the wisdom of Congress, the public interests may seem to require. Mr. Evarts, the Secretary of State, questions the competency of the commission to make the award except unanimously, but intimates that an appropriation should be made in the present session, and that before the close of the year the attention of England will be called to the sentiments of the United States Government as they may be expressed by Congress.

Several vessels laden with passengers and live stock have sailed from Sydney for New Guinea, where gold has been discovered.

The harvest prospects in the United States are so brilliant that, according to the *New York Times*, "nothing short of a cataclysm of nature" can prevent them having such crops as will stand unequalled in the country's history. There is to be a "truly magnificent yield of wheat," but there is a cautious avoidance of confident predictions about the yield of cotton.

The Prince of Wales has forwarded 1,000*l.* for the sufferers by the recent explosion in the Rue Beranger, Paris. The number of victims is now ascertained—viz., fourteen—and all but two of the bodies have been recovered. Twenty-eight injured persons are in the hospital.

A letter has been addressed by the French Minister of the Interior to the Prefect of the Seine, on the subject of a resolution of the Municipal Council of Paris respecting the proposed public celebration of the centenary of Voltaire. The Minister maintains that the resolution treats of matters with which the Council has nothing whatever to do, and that therefore it cannot be sanctioned.

Despatches from Ottawa, received in New York, state that preparations against Fenian raids continue throughout Canada, and that four gunboats have been ordered to Lakes Erie and Ontario.

One hundred thousand persons visited the Paris Exhibition on Sunday last, being the largest number yet recorded.

Father Hyacinthe will give four Sunday afternoon lectures next month in the Cirque d'Hiver.

Advices received at Cairo from Kartoum announce that the Nile has begun to rise in a satisfactorily abundant manner in Upper Egypt.

According to a St. Petersburg correspondent of *Mayfair* the feeling in the Russian capital is "fearfully anti-English." Especial hatred is entertained towards Her Majesty the Queen. The people apply to Her Majesty the most hateful terms to be found in the Russian language.

Some time ago the publisher of a "Society" journal called the *Whitehall Review* was convicted of libelling two persons named Thornton, by insinuating that they had murdered a Mr. Wood, who had left them some property by his will. On Monday, when the publisher came up in the Queen's Bench Division for judgment, the writer of the libel and the editor of the *Review* filed affidavits admitting their error and expressing regret. The court acquitted the persons concerned of any malicious intention, but imposed on the nominal defendant a fine of 25*0*l.**

Lord Derby is about to present 500*l.* to the Liverpool Council of Education for the establishment of one of the scholarships which connect the public elementary schools of the town with the higher education of the Liverpool College and the Liverpool Institute. In conformity with the request of the Council his lordship's name will be associated with the scholarship.

Miscellaneous.

In the June number of the *Contemporary Review*, Canon Farrar will reply in detail to the various criticisms which have been passed upon his book, "Eternal Hope," by the writers who have debated the question of "Future Punishment" in the *Contemporary* for April and May.

The Rev. W. W. Skeat, M.A., the well-known Anglo-Saxon scholar, was on Wednesday elected to the newly-founded Elrington and Bosworth Anglo-Saxon Professorship at the University of Cambridge.

Sir F. Goldsmid has bequeathed 40,000*l.* to University College, Gower-street.

A new oratorio, written by the Musical Professor of Harrow School, Mr. John Farmer, and entitled *Christ and His Soldiers*, is announced for performance at Exeter Hall on Saturday afternoon next, in aid of the Convalescent Home attached to King's College Hospital.

The commission for the arrangement of the text of Luther's writings has been convened at Coburg, and consists of Professor Camphausen from Bonn, Deacon Kuhn from Dresden, and Professor Bertheau from Göttingen.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE SCOTCH DISSENTERS.—The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P., has consented to receive a deputation in London to-morrow

from the Free Church United Presbyterian, Baptist, and other Dissenting bodies in Scotland, when an address will be presented to him, thanking him for his conduct upon the Eastern Question. Among the deputation will be Dr. John Cairns, Professor Calderwood, Dr. Walter Smith, and the Rev. W. Pulsford. The address in question has the signatures of 820 Free Church ministers, 500 United Presbyterian ministers, and 200 other Nonconformist ministers—in all, 1,520.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.—The annual meeting of the Convocation of the University of London was held on Tuesday. Dr. W. B. Carpenter, Registrar, laid on the table the new Supplemental Charter granted by the Crown, extending the powers of the University so as to enable it to open all its degrees to women. On the motion of the chairman, the charter was carried with acclamation. Since the previous meeting of Convocation an address, signed by 1,960 women, had been presented to the Senate expressing their "heartfelt gratitude for the noble part it has taken in coming forward first among the Universities of Great Britain to propose to open all its degrees to women, and thereby to place them in the position so long coveted of free intellectual activity, alike unhindered by mistaken protection and unfettered by ancient prejudice." At the presentation of prizes on Wednesday the chair was taken by Sir John Lubbock, the Vice-Chancellor, in the unavoidable absence of Earl Granville, the Chancellor of the University. It was stated that the number of candidates who had presented themselves for examination had steadily increased, and was now 2,123.

THE PROSPECTS OF THE SEASON.—Looking around and consulting the reports of our correspondents we see that the promise of a good season is reflected from every department of both farm and garden. There is an abundant crop of grass, cereals are looking well and are somewhat forward, potatoes are showing their aways with promising regularity, and have as yet suffered no serious check, wall fruits have in many places, more especially in the south, been rendered barren by the east winds, but, taking a general view, there is even in this precarious department of fruit culture a better promise than we have had for three years past: pears have produced but little bloom, but the time was so favourable that we expect a fair average crop: cherries are partially distributed, and in many places are plentiful: of plums and apples the show is such that it seems none too soon to get the baskets ready: of bush fruits collectively the crop will be enormous if present promises are of any value. As regards gooseberries, however, we must already chronicle a partial failure, which is bad news for the makers of cheap champagne. However, it is a world and a season for compensations, and if gooseberries should prove scarce there will be an abundant growth of rhubarb.—*Gardeners' Magazine*.

THE FAMINE IN CHINA.—The India and China mail just received via Brindisi brings advices from Shanghai up to the 4th of April. The local newspapers contain numerous references to the terrible famine which is still ravaging the northern provinces of China. The following letter, addressed by an English missionary to the secretary of the Famine Relief Fund in Shanghai, is printed in the *Celestial Empire*:—"I regret to say that in the regions of Lao-Ling, Teu-Ping, and Ling-Hsien, in Shantung, and Ning-Ching, in Chihli, where we have mission stations, the distress is, if possible, worse than it was last year. The continued drought for three years has brought the people to an absolute state of misery and destitution. Until the present winter many of the wealthy landowners and farmers have been able to live on their store from former years and meagre crops during the drought, and afford a little help to their poorer neighbours. But now, they, too, are without food, have had to sell their farm implements, cattle, pawn their land (where they could), and live on the horrid stuff that the poorest have had to eat so long. It cannot be called food, as it yields no nourishment, but it quells the awful pain of hunger, for a time, only, in too many cases, to produce greater pain, or wasting disease. The complaint is, that the young men are too feeble to work in their fields just now, when the season for labour is come. Many villages are half depopulated, and I passed one village on the border line of Shantung and Chihli provinces, utterly deserted; every house stripped of roof, door, and window; the bare mud walls alone standing. Children are sold or given away, and sometimes young infants are buried alive by their parents. During absence from home for a few months of a young man, recently married, and who is a member of one of our churches—his family were reduced to such fearful straits, that in order to get food his father and mother sold his young wife. Some of the most unaccountable methods are resorted to by these poor people in their extremity for procuring food. Deaths from starvation are daily occurring in every village, and pestilence is still abroad, in some instances carrying off whole families."

PROPOSED NEW UNIVERSITY.—A memorial having recently been presented to the Government praying that a charter might be granted to Owen's College, conferring upon it the rank of a university, to be called the University of Manchester, a deputation waited on Wednesday upon the Duke of Richmond and Gordon and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, at the Privy Council Office, with the view of ensuring that if a new university be created its principle shall be that of a confederation of colleges, and that its name may not be a merely local one. The deputation represented the Clothworkers' Company of London, the City Councils of York and

Lincoln, the Town Councils of Liverpool, Leeds, Sheffield, Huddersfield, Halifax, Scarborough, Hull, Richmond, Doncaster, Wakefield, Rotherham, Dewsbury, and Darlington, as well as various educational and scientific societies from those and other towns in the North of England. The Marquis of Ripon, Mr. Aldam, High Sheriff of Yorkshire, Dr. Acland, Lord F. Cavendish, and several other gentlemen, having explained the object of the deputation, the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, in reply, said he entirely concurred with the remark that it was a wide, and at the same time most difficult question to deal with. So complex was it that he could not then be expected to give any opinion on it on behalf of Her Majesty's Government. The entire question, however, would be taken into consideration as soon as Government was able to do so. The Chancellor of the Exchequer could assure the deputation that, so far as his part in the matter was concerned, he should be most anxious to give the fullest consideration to the question, as it bore on the department with which he was specially connected. (Hear.) It had always seemed to him, in considering educational proposals, to be a great object to endeavour to harmonise the system of education throughout the country—an end which, though easy to speak of, implied a task which it was not so easy to accomplish. Of course, a great and increasing demand for university facilities undoubtedly called for some increase of supply; but whether that supply was to be furnished by improving the institutions they already possessed, or by establishing new institutions, was a question of considerable importance, and one which it was undesirable by precipitate action to make a mistake upon. The action of Owen's College had been of great advantage in awakening public attention on the matter. He entirely assented to what his noble friend had said, as to this being a subject to which Her Majesty's Government would devote their best and early attention. (Hear.) The Ministers having been thanked for their courtesy, the deputation withdrew.

Gleanings.

"Heroine" is perhaps as peculiar a word as any in our language: the first two letters of it are male, the three first female, the four first a brave man, and the whole word a brave woman.

"Surely you must be tired, aunty? I can't think how it is you are able to work so long." "Lawks bless you, my dear, when I onst sets down to it like, I'm just too lazy to leave off."

A little American boy, asking another who Good Friday was, received the withering reply, "Well, you go home and read your 'Robinson Crusoe.'"

A courteous old clergyman, being told a very tough story, said: "Since you were an eye-witness, I suppose I must believe you, but I don't think I'd have believed it if I had seen it myself."

Physician: "Put out your tongue a little further." "Why, doctor, do you think a woman's tongue has no end?" Physician: "An end, perhaps, madam, but no cessation."

Several years ago a young man in New Orleans put a sum of money in a savings-bank, and forgot all about it until recently, when, after reckoning up the interest, it was found that—the bank had failed.

"Oh! how dreadful," said an old lady, reared in an atmosphere of Conservative clericalism, when the other day Mr. Gladstone was pointed out to her at the funeral of a distinguished friend; "I do trust he isn't come to make a disturbance."—*Mayfair*.

MR. GLADSTONE AND MR. NEWDEGATE.—On Thursday evening, while the Speaker was putting an unopposed return, Mr. Gladstone crossed the House to shake hands with and hold a short conversation with Mr. Newdegate. His movement attracted attention, and when he sat down on the steps of the gangway, like any second-rate member, the Tories thought it necessary to mark their feeling on the occasion by loud and prolonged cheers. Seeing that they had no chance of having a quiet chat, the two strange political friends rose together and left the House in company, their progress being watched with amused persistence, and the cheers and laughter dying away only when the door shut upon them.—*London Correspondent of Sheffield Independent*.

DRESS.—*Piccadilly*, a new "Society" journal, remarks that beauty of dress is obtained at present from Paris, owing to some inspiration worthy of some of the more intellectual of the Hetaïræ. Now, almost invariably these "fashions," as they are called, have one distinct motive—to give the milliners work; and therefore to be as different to preceding ones as can well be. It may easily be seen that there can be but very few methods of perfect dress in the world, and that if it were necessary to invent a new method once every six months (or oftener), these would soon be exhausted, and recourse would have to be had to all sorts of ingenious devices and extravagances to keep up the requisite novelty. This is what happens in Paris; and as we follow the French with a slavish submission, this is what happens in England, too. Let but an unholy inspiration enter the head of milliner or leader of the fashion, and straightway everyone must also be inspired in like fashion, or remain in that outer darkness where, for women, alas! there is always gnashing of

teeth. If our Englishwomen could only be persuaded to stand upon their dignity at last, and say, "No, we have been dragged at your chariot wheels long enough; we have imitated you till we have ruined our husbands and made frights of ourselves, and now we will do it no longer. We are sick of your caprices, and your follies, and your inconsistencies, and we will try if, for the future, we cannot dress like ladies without your help." This is what we should like to hear our countrywomen say and stand to, and the result of it would be that we should no longer drift about from one fashion to another, according to the mutations of French taste, but have a rationally beautiful dress, suitable to our climate and our people, possessing the individuality of the English character and the sobriety of English taste.

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Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTH.

UNWIN.—At Rosedale, Handen-road, Lee, on the 17th inst., the wife of Mr. Edward Unwin, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

RUMNEY—WATTS—May 14, at the Congregational Church, Clifton-road, Brighton, by the Rev. John Graham, Howard Rumney, of Enfield, Middlesex, solicitor, to Mary Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Isaac Watts, of Brighton.

BROWN—CUNNINGHAM—May 16, at Cambridge Heath Congregational Church, Hackney, by Rev. William Marshall, Frederick William Brown, of Hackney-road, to Mary, youngest daughter of the late Samuel Cunningham, of Victoria Saw Mills, Hackney-road.

MASON—LYALL—May 16, at the Hamilton-square Congregational Church, Birkenhead, C. H. Mason, of Euston Station, London, solicitor, to Hannah, daughter of W. Lyall, of Mousie, Perthshire.

DEATHS.

BASSETT.—March 16, at Onehunga, Auckland, N.Z., William Thomas, son of the late Christopher Bassett, of Countesthorpe, Leicestershire, aged 48.

GREGORY.—May 13, at Can bridge Park Gardens, Twickenham, Ellen Gregory, aged 21 years, the beloved daughter of Sophia and stepdaughter of G. F. Whiteley, J.P.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—Mind and body are so closely intertwined that for the former to be vigorous the latter must be healthful. The first step towards the maintenance of health is to secure perfect digestion, which is readily obtained by this noted medicine, the most competent to effectually restrain every adverse influence which can mar, impair, or vexatiously modify this all-important process. The student, merchant, man of pleasure, and humblest labourer may each in turn derive vigour, ease, and strength from occasional doses, or a longer course of Holloway's purifying Pills. However wavering the mind, or unstrung the nerves, this fine medicine will track the derangement to its source, where it will overthrow it and establish order and purity in its place.

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Union Bank	15 "
City Bank	10 "
London and South-Western	8 "
Consolidated	10 "
Central	8 "
National Provincial Bank of England	21 "
Birmingham Joint Stock	20 "
Clydesdale Banking	14 "
Liverpool Union	10 "
North Wilts and Dorset	20 "
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Applications for shares must be made on the annexed form, accompanied by the deposit of £1 per share, and be forwarded to the Secretary, at the Banking House, 103, Cannon-street, E.C., London, on or before Saturday, the 25th day of May inst., when the list of applications will be closed.

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By order of the Board,

JOHN FREDERIC COPELAND,

Secretary.

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Name (in full)

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Date, 1878.

Signature

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SUPPLEMENT TO THE NONCONFORMIST.

VOL. XXXIX.—NEW SERIES, No. 1696.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1878.

GRATIS.

THE PEACE SOCIETY.

MORNING CONFERENCE.

Yesterday morning a number of the friends of the Peace Society met and breakfasted together at the Devonshire Hotel, Bishopsgate-street. A large company sat down, among those present being Mr. Henry Richard, M.P., Mr. J. S. Wright (Birmingham), Mr. A. Dunn, Mr. A. Albright (Birmingham), Mr. Snape (Liverpool), Mr. Hodgkin (Darlington), Dr. Leone Levi, M. Melotti (Paris), Mr. J. Spicer, jun., Signor Pagliardini (Italy), Mr. Hayward (Liverpool), &c.

Mr. J. S. WRIGHT presided, and briefly opened the proceedings, and called upon Mr. Richard to read the report.

Mr. RICHARD said he felt great pleasure in meeting so many friends that morning, and he would express thanks on behalf of the committee of the Peace Society for their presence on that occasion. The report stated that the committee of the Peace Society regretted that they had little to report this year but what related to the one absorbing question which had occupied the mind and agitated the heart of the country and of all Europe during the last twelve months, and the disastrous consequences, material, moral, and political, that have flowed from it. The prolonged and perilous crisis through which this country has been passing, in relation to the Eastern Question, has imposed exceptionally heavy duties upon the Peace Society during the past year. From these duties it has not shrunk, to the extent of the means and resources at its command. By public meetings, lectures, and conferences, by the circulation of more than a million pamphlets, tracts, and handbills, by a copious and continuous supply of matter to the periodical press, by addresses and forms of petition to Parliament, which have been scattered broadcast, not only among members of the Society, but among clergymen and ministers of all denominations, and by cordial co-operation with other bodies, who, though not always on the same grounds, were aiming at the same end, it has strenuously laboured to allay the war fever which has, unhappily, of late prevailed, and to influence public opinion in favour of peace and arbitration. But what has been done directly by the parent society in London, gives only a very imperfect representation of the amount of activity which it has helped to promote. It has been acting also extensively through various auxiliary bodies, more or less connected with it, such as the Midland Arbitration Society, the Lancashire and Yorkshire Peace and Arbitration Association, the Liverpool Auxiliary Peace Society, the Workmen's Peace Association, the Women's Peace Association, the Society for the Reform and Codification of International Law; and other bodies whom it has been the duty and the pleasure of the committee to support by pecuniary help, by an ample supply of peace literature, and by every other assistance it was in their power to render—a mode of operation which they have found to be in a high degree valuable and efficient. The number of the meetings and lectures of the society and its auxiliaries during the year has exceeded 420. They have also had the pleasure of inducing many ministers of the Gospel to preach peace sermons to their congregations. No fewer than 163 ministers in London alone have done this. It has further afforded satisfaction to the committee to give occasional aid to some of their esteemed fellow-labourers on the Continent of Europe, and so to encourage them to persevere, in face of the many difficulties they have to contend with, in holding up the banner of peace. It is difficult accurately to estimate the influence of such a society as this. But it is impossible not to be struck with the wide difference that may be observed in the state of public opinion in this country at the present crisis, as compared with what it was twenty-five years ago, on the eve of the Russian war. Is it too much to assume that the teaching of the Peace Society has had something to do with the altered state of feeling which is now witnessed especially among the serious and religious portion of the community, and even to ascribe to the exertions of the society the remarkable hold which the principle of arbitration is taking on the public mind of the civilised world, as indicated by the number of successful motions affirming the principle which have passed different Legislatures in Europe and America, and the frequency with which the principle is practically applied in settling disputes between States? The society has thus ample encouragement to work in the face of many formidable difficulties that may seem to beset its path; for assuredly it is working in harmony

with the most powerful and prevailing tendencies of an enlightened and Christian civilisation.

Mr. HODGKIN, of Darlington, moved that the report be printed and circulated, and submitted to the public meeting in the evening. He said that the society had been pursuing a great work amongst the people of this country. The English people, however, wanted leaders, and he complained that the Liberal leaders had not spoken out as they should have done. While he recognised the efforts of the committee to avoid political bias in this matter, they could not help seeing that while the Government spoke for peace it meant war. (Hear, hear.) Therefore it was very important that they should speak out in every possible way, and on every occasion. The Peace Society had taken prompt action, and in this matter it was their duty to leave undone much that had occupied their attention heretofore in order to devote their energies to try and prevent our country being engaged in a terrible war. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. T. SNAP, of Liverpool, seconded the resolution. He remarked with regard to the feeling in Lancashire upon the question of war that a Cabinet Minister had said that the feeling of Lancashire to-day was the feeling of the country to-morrow. So far as he knew Lancashire, the idea entertained there was that the Government had sought to involve the country in war. (Hear, hear.) In those districts at the present time there was great depression of trade, which was the outcome of dissatisfaction, and that dissatisfaction and commercial depression to a great extent were caused by the state of political affairs. He affirmed that if Lancashire was polled to-morrow the vote against the Government would be a most decided and marked one. They had held meetings in Liverpool of a non-political character, and had succeeded in making the voice of the town heard against war and in favour of peace. (Hear, hear.)

Dr. LEONE LEVI supported the resolution. He thought it was extremely to be lamented that, while France by means of her Exhibition gave the elegance, the beauty, and the wealth and riches of peace, we in this country should be thinking of war and destruction. (Hear, hear.) It was greatly to be lamented that the minds of the people were directed not to the means of increasing trade and prosperity in the country, but of stimulating war propensities. (Hear, hear.) The effect of the present state of things was to turn aside attention from productive to unproductive pursuits, which impaired the power and resources of the country. Such a state of things was a loss to the world at large. (Hear, hear.) A loss to Russia was a loss to England, and a loss to England was a loss to the whole world. All nations were one great family, and if one suffered all suffered. (Hear, hear.) He urged the friends of peace therefore to persevere in their opposition to the war feeling. (Cheers.)

Mr. BRITTON, of the Workmen's Peace Society, supported the resolution, and said that the organisation with which he was connected would do all in their power to assist the efforts of the Peace Society.

M. MELOTTI (Paris) said that in this question of peace they had France on their side. (Hear, hear.) France had been suffering from the consequences of the late war, and, until lately, she did not know her own mind. (Hear, hear.) They were now endeavouring, by the Exhibition, to spread amongst the French people pacific ideas in favour of the principle of arbitration. A new era had commenced in that country. New men were speaking and new ideas were being brought to bear upon public affairs. The French press had stated that the English Government were pursuing a policy that would tend to peace; but he was of opinion that if they were going in for peace they were doing it by warlike measures. If peace was desired it must be effected by peace measures. (Hear, hear.)

The resolution was unanimously carried. Mr. PUMFREY, of Newcastle, in proposing a resolution appointing the officers of the Society for the ensuing year, affirmed that there was great need of the aid of such a society as that. In Newcastle they had canvassed the district, and found that quite seven-eighths of the population were opposed to going to war and in favour of peace and the policy of Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Bright. (Hear, hear.) They had been misrepresented by the press in Newcastle, where there was not a paper which represented their principle. Hence the necessity that they should speak out.

Mr. J. SPICER, jun., seconded the resolution, and said it was their duty as a Christian nation to set a good example with regard to peace to the rest of the world. England had acted a worthy part with respect to the Alabama claims, and he hoped it would not upset what had been done by plunging into war. (Hear, hear.)

Dr. D. CLARK (United States) enforced the idea that Christianity was opposed to war, and urged that the teaching of that great truth was one of the most important functions of the Christian Church. Much could be done by the Church of England and the Dissenting bodies of this country in promulgating these views, and there would be no war amongst Christian nations if they did their duty.

Signor PAGLIARDINI, Secretary of the Italian Peace Society, said that Italy had given, perhaps, as good a proof as any country, except England, of her determination to avoid the desolation and destruction caused by war. (Hear, hear.) They had met in that country in large numbers, and declared their opinion upon the subject, and they were unanimously in favour of arbitration. (Hear, hear.) The action of the Peace Society was known all over the Continent, and in a short time he hoped that both in Germany and Russia, the two nations that were chiefly the cause of the great armaments of Europe, the principle of disarmament would ere long be recognised. The Government of England had been altogether wrong in the action they had taken—(Hear, hear.)—and he hoped that the present state of suspense would end in a pacific arrangement which would produce a lasting peace. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. HAYWARD, of Manchester, supported the resolution, and said that the Churches of Christ should resolve to devote all their energies towards the prevention of any war and the maintenance of peace.

The resolution was carried unanimously. The resolutions to be submitted to the evening meeting having been approved of, the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

THE EVENING MEETING.

The usual annual meeting of the Peace Society was held last evening in the Weigh House Chapel, Fish-street-hill, which was crowded on the occasion. The proceedings were of a very enthusiastic character. The chair was taken by Henry Peace, Esq., who was supported by Mr. Richard, M.P., Mr. J. Whitwell Peace, M.P., Mr. Samuel Gurney, Mr. Barnabas Hobbs (of Indiana), Mr. Henry Vincent, Mr. Thos. Snape (Liverpool), Rev. J. Freetone (Manchester), Mr. A. Albright (Birmingham), Mr. A. Dunn, Dr. Ellis, Mr. John Horniman, Mr. C. S. Wilson (Sunderland), Mr. W. R. Cramer (Secretary of the Workmen's Peace Association), Mr. William Rowntree (Scarborough), Mr. A. B. Hayward (Liverpool), Mr. Arthur Peace (Darlington), Mr. J. G. Alexander, Mr. William Tallack, Mr. Lewis Appleton (Birmingham), Mr. Howard Evans, Mr. Alfred Prust (Launceston), Mr. Henry Catford, Mr. F. F. Cotterell (Bristol), Mr. W. J. Irons, &c., &c.

The CHAIRMAN said he would at once call upon their indefatigable secretary to read the report, which he had no doubt they would all listen to with attention.

Mr. HENRY RICHARD, M.P., the secretary, who was received with much applause, said he was afraid the reports were not very popular documents at public meetings. Yet when an annual meeting of a society was held it was indispensable that they should give some account of its proceedings during the year. He had always endeavoured to make the report as brief and interesting as he could, and he would try to do so on this occasion. He had especially to apologise to many of them who had attended a meeting in the early part of the day, on account of the necessity which compelled him to go over the same ground. Argument and sentiment might be varied to any extent, according to the ability of the speaker; but facts were stubborn things, and could not be varied. The committee regretted that they had little of home operations to report this year, but what related to the one absorbing question which had occupied and agitated the heart of the country, and of all Europe, during the last twelve months, viz., the deplorable war in the East, and the disastrous consequences, material, moral, and political that had flowed from it. Never had there been a more signal demonstration of the impotence of the sword to settle satisfactorily the great problem of humanity than was afforded by the history of recent events. (Applause.) After a conflict conducted on a gigantic scale and with almost unexampled barbarity, after hundreds of thousands of lives had been sacrificed, what was the result of it all? Was it peace, order, or security? Had the war cut the Gordian knot which had puzzled statesmen and diplomatists? Had good government emerged out of the chaos of violence and blood, or was it not the fact that the war, so far from having settled anything, had called forth elements, and stirred up passions which brought them face-to-face with complications and perils more formidable than those which led to the war, and which it was expected to terminate? (Applause.) And so it ever was. When once the tempest of human passion was unchained, they had as little power to restrain it as they had "to ride the whirlwind or direct the storm." (Applause.) When the Constantinople Conference had met without satisfactory results, and the London Protocol had been disregarded by the Porte, and Russia was holding out hostile

threats, the committee, as a last resource, ventured to call Lord Derby's attention to the 8th Article of the Treaty of Paris, suggesting to him whether it did not afford ground for another endeavour to avert the calamity of war. That Article provided that, if there should be any difficulty between the Porte and any of the Signatory Powers, before having recourse to the use of force, they should afford the opportunity to the other contracting Powers to prevent such an extremity by means of mediation. The committee, therefore, submitted to the Foreign Secretary that Russia and Turkey were now in such circumstances as that the other Powers might press upon them the duty of affording the opportunity for a friendly mediation before appealing to the sword. But, alas! events were marching too rapidly, and in two or three days after this document was in Lord Derby's hands the Russian declaration of war was issued. During the earlier part of the year the work of the society was mainly to utilise the material which came to hand in such melancholy abundance to illustrate the folly and brutality of war. It had also afforded them satisfaction to sustain as far as they could the Government in the policy of neutrality which they had early and distinctly proclaimed. The support then given to the Government by the committee was frank and cordial, and had, they hoped, some effect in counteracting the influence of a certain portion of the public who from generous but mistaken motives would have urged an alliance with Russia. Surely those who recommended such a course must now be glad that their counsels did not prevail! But during the progress of the war, and as Russian arms became more successful, another and more dangerous party began to lift up its head. Violent appeals to the old jealousies and prejudices against Russia appeared in some of the papers, and all means that could work on the passions of the people were employed to minister to the national pride and pugnacity. The committee saw those symptoms with regret and alarm, and in December they issued an address to their friends exhorting them by every means in their power to swell the public voice denouncing war and demanding peace as the greatest of British interests. (Applause.) This appeal was well sustained by their lecturers and other friends of the society in various parts of the country. The committee had been careful to avoid giving any political colour to their action upon this question. They had never ceased so long as it was possible to acknowledge the pacific counsels of the Government, and hailed with satisfaction the admirable sentiments of some of the Ministers, notably those of Lord Salisbury, Lord Carnarvon, and Lord Derby—(great applause)—and had used their utmost endeavours to give currency and emphasis to those words of wisdom and peace. They felt some confidence that the pacific policy declared by Government would not be seriously departed from so long as Lord Derby continued to direct the Foreign Affairs, and they could not but regard his retirement as a national calamity. (Applause.) Now, however, with every disposition to put a favourable construction on the acts of our rulers, the committee were forced to the conclusion that within the last few months they had forsaken the paths of peace, and had adopted a succession of measures, the direct tendency of which was to bring the country into imminent peril of war. (A voice: "No, no," and great applause.) The sending of the fleet to the Dardanelles, and the other measures which had followed, could be regarded in no other light than as most dangerous provocations to war. For if all these things were done in the interests of peace, it would be asked what else could the Government have done if it had been intent upon war? Such measures, even if temporarily successful, were none the less to be deprecated, because they planted bitterness and rancour in the heart of nations which were the fruitful seeds of future discords, and gave the bad example of regulating affairs of State by the means of violence and brute force instead of by conciliation and kindness. As soon as the committee observed an indication of a change in the Ministerial policy they started into fresh activity, and at the end of January issued an appeal to their friends, which was again renewed at the beginning of April. These appeals, accompanied by forms of petition, were not only sent to the immediate friends of the society, but to a large number of the clergy and to ministers of the Congregational, Baptist, Methodist, and other bodies to the extent of 25,000 copies. It was obvious, from the large number of petitions soon after presented to Parliament, that there must have been a wide response to this appeal, though they gratefully acknowledged the exertions of the London Nonconformists in the same direction. (Applause.) In these appeals and petitions special prominence was given to the Protocol of Paris of 1856, which recommended friendly mediation. The committee had great pleasure in acknowledging the cordial assurances of sympathy they had received from a considerable number of the clergy of the Church of England. (Applause.) Meanwhile, the lecturers of the society were busy throughout the country, no less than 425 lectures and meetings having been held during the year; but then came a time when, owing to a disgraceful eruption of rowdiness, these had to be for some weeks discontinued, and it then became necessary to fall back upon the Press, and a copious supply of literature bearing on the question was sent forth to all parts of the kingdom. Between 50,000 and 60,000 copies of Lord Derby's speech

were circulated, while other publications exposing the groundlessness of the anti-Russian panic and the disastrous consequences of a war were scattered broadcast over the country. Of pamphlets, tracts, broadsheets, and other publications upwards of a million copies had been issued from the London office during the year. There was another step the committee had felt it their duty to take. They had ventured to address a memorial to the ambassadors in London of all the Powers that signed the Treaty of 1856, viz., France, Germany, Russia, Austria, Italy, and Turkey, and in a somewhat modified form to the Marquis of Salisbury, calling their attention to the Paris Protocol; respectfully submitting that this was a fitting time to bring it under the notice of their respective Governments; and suggesting that the present afforded a suitable opportunity for a practical application of the principles of friendly reference so solemnly recognised. From some of these gentlemen they had received respectful replies, promising compliance with their request. It was well known to most friends of the society that of late years, instead of concentrating all means of action in the hands of the parent society in London, the committee had found it expedient to have other auxiliary bodies in several distinct centres co-operating with them, but with a certain mode of independent action. Among these were the Midland Arbitration Society, the Lancashire and Yorkshire Peace and Arbitration Society, and the Liverpool Auxiliary Peace Society, which had all rendered excellent service in the present emergency. There was another body also to which the committee must pay its tribute of grateful respect, viz., the Workmen's Peace Association, which for several years had been conducted with admirable judgment and energy by a body of working men, to whom they had felt satisfaction in rendering help and encouragement. The widespread organisation of this body placed in their hands a machinery for action which on this occasion had been put in requisition with the happiest effect. The first proposal was to hold a conference of working men in London, and with the hearty co-operation of Mr. Arthur Allbright, of Birmingham—(applause)—its success was insured. This proved to be only the first of a series of working men's conferences, promoted by the Workmen's Peace Association. The most significant gathering, of 656 genuine agricultural labourers from various parts of the kingdom, was held at the Memorial Hall on the 4th of May, under the presidency of Mr. Joseph Arch—(applause)—and the committee recorded their thanks to Mr. Andrew Dunn, Mr. Walter Hasell, and to Mr. Samuel Morley for their co-operation in the matter. Other working men's conferences had been held in Liverpool, Leeds, Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Newcastle, and one was to be held at Aberdare next Thursday, all proclaiming trumpet-tongued that the great body of the working-men were heart and soul in favour of peace. Another important conference, held at Birmingham on the 2nd of May, owed its success to the ardour and energy of Mr. Arthur Allbright, seconded by the Midland Arbitration Society, and the agent of the Peace Society, Mr. Arthur O'Neil. The committee also desired to acknowledge the services of others who had been at this crisis working for the same end, such as the Reform Union, the Eastern Question Association, and the promoters of the Declaration against War, to which it was understood some 230,000 signatures had been appended. (Applause.) They had felt pleasure in rendering encouragement and help to Mr. Jacob Bright, upon whom the burden of this remarkable movement had principally devolved. (Applause.) With regard to the foreign aspects of the Peace enterprise, reference had been made in former reports to a movement for a simultaneous effort in different Legislatures with a view to bringing about a mutual reduction of the present enormous armaments in Europe. It had been intended to have carried this into effect during the past year, but it was felt that the present was not a time to make any proposals for disarmament. The idea, however, had not been relinquished, and they were fully resolved when a more propitious time arrived to urge it forward with renewed energy. It would be remembered that when Mr. Richard's motion on the subject of arbitration was carried in Parliament, one of a similar purport was brought forward by Signor Mancini in the Italian Chamber, and adopted by that assembly with absolute unanimity. Since then Signor Mancini had occupied high office in the Italian Government, but he had not ceased to feel an interest in the cause of arbitration. Through his instrumentality a resolution had been carried expressing a hope that the Italian Government would insert an arbitration clause in all treaties of commerce. The ideas of peace and arbitration seem to have taken a great hold of the Italian people, a festival having been held at Lavona in September to commemorate the memorable award of Geneva, and a great meeting in favour of peace having just taken place at Milan. He had always said that if the working men of the world, who were the counters with which princes and statesmen played their game of ambition and intrigue, were to say unanimously they would not fight, there could be no war. (Applause.) The Workmen's Peace Association had, he believed, already sent an address to their fellow labourers in Holland, and he now asked the authority of this large meeting to send a cordial vote of thanks to their fellow labourers in Italy. (Great applause.) Their excellent fellow-workers in Holland continued in their devotion to the cause, and the

friends of peace in Paris were more than usually active in preparing for a great conference during the Exhibition. An admirable opportunity would then be offered for indoctrinating the masses with sound ideas of peace and arbitration and disarmament, and if they could only lay their hands upon one of the six millions which the Government had been wasting upon war vessels and great guns, and sand bags, they would render it very difficult for the Government to get any more millions for the same purpose. (Loud applause.) It was impossible, however, not to be struck with the contrast between the present state of feeling and that which prevailed twenty-five years ago. The principles of peace had made great progress since then. A large section of the clergy, headed by several of the bishops, had pronounced unequivocally against war, and the Nonconformists of all denominations were united on the same side. (Applause.) He had no doubt that the great body of the working-men were sound on the question of peace or war. It was not always so. On almost every occasion when war became imminent it enlisted the popular voice in its behalf, but that was not so now. (Applause.) Encouraged therefore by this gratifying change in public opinion, the friends of peace would return to their work with redoubled ardour, with the full and calm conviction that the seeds of truth when sown broadcast were never altogether lost, but would in good time bear abundant and appropriate fruit. (Loud and continued applause.)

The CHAIRMAN said that when he looked at the gentlemen seated around him on the platform he could not help rejoicing that their cause would receive such vigorous help, and that his own duty, as the president of the meeting, was rather to lend his aid to the carrying out of the object of the gathering than to make any very long address himself to the audience. In the report it was stated that the object of the Peace Society had nothing to do with politics. They held indeed that the subject of peace was above and beyond—entirely beyond—the question of politics. (Hear, hear.) It was not a strife for petty dominion that they were engaged in, but Christian endeavours after permanent peace here and peace hereafter. Those who were met that evening held the view that under no circumstances was war consistent with thoughtful Christianity. War was a compound of iniquity, and he trusted that they themselves and all their friends would on all suitable occasions maintain as far as in them lay the cause of peace, and that they would always love their fellow-creatures, and promote their interests to the best of the ability which the Almighty had been pleased to bestow on them. (Applause.)

The SECRETARY announced with regret the absence, through severe illness, of their estimable and highly honoured friend Sir Wilfrid Lawson. He (the speaker) would have much liked to have seen Sir Wilfrid among them, not merely on account of the advantage they would have derived from his eloquent advocacy of their cause, but in order that they might have been afforded an opportunity of testifying their respect for one of the truest and bravest men in the House of Commons. (Applause.)

The Rev. NEWMAN HALL moved:—

That in view of the unspeakable horrors of the recent conflict in South-Eastern Europe, this meeting sees a fresh illustration of the real and unchangeable character of war as a scourge to humanity, an outrage on justice, and a scandal to Christianity, while the state of anarchy and discord in which it has left the countries over which it swept, and the perilous European complications to which it has given rise, prove its utter inefficacy to settle any question on a lasting and satisfactory basis. This recent experience, therefore, should, in the opinion of this meeting, stimulate all lovers of their kind to more strenuous efforts for the establishment among nations of some other means of adjusting their differences more in accordance with right and reason and religion.

He said he remembered seeing at the Exhibition, which had been held to promote peace, and with the view of uniting all men for ever in one bond of love, a vast display of guns, and swords, and bayonets. The argument used by some people was that these weapons were so adapted to maim and kill, that fewer people would be maimed and killed than ever previously. (Laughter.) The experience of the last war had furnished only a fresh illustration of the assertion that "the mercies of the wicked are cruel." (Hear, hear.) There had been other people who said that the woes of battle would be so much aggravated that people would be too horrified to go to war. What, however, had been the fact? Immediately there was a danger of our own nation being involved in war, certain newspapers and individuals showed themselves positively delighted at the prospect of hostilities. There were actually cries of "War, war!" It had been a nightly enjoyment—and perhaps this was the case still—to sing songs of which the meaning was "Let us go to war"; and it could not be doubted that at one time, if there had been a proclamation of war, tens of thousands would have flung up their hats, and without inquiring into the cause of the quarrel, simply rejoiced in the excitement of war. There was a state of atmosphere in which certain seeds took root and developed, and in which certain diseases were propagated; and there was likewise a certain state of public sentiment in which it was most easy for the poisonous plant of war to take root and flourish. (Hear, hear.) As another instance of this, the Franco-German War could not have taken place if the French people had not been seized with that fury. (Hear, hear.) Such a spirit had been abroad

with ourselves, and our escape from implication had been due to the special mercy of Providence, and in answer to the prayers of little children and timid, retiring women. The escape of the English nation had not been in consequence of the general spirit of the people, but in spite of that spirit. People had been carried away by sensationalism; they must have some fresh excitement, night by night—dramas and entertainments; they became more sensuous, and they must have more striking and startling things to please them. The gladiator shows in Rome had fed that spirit, and if it were possible to have gladiatorial exhibitions at the present day, multitudes would throng to them and make them remunerative. (Hear, hear.) Those people who crowded music-halls to hear the "By Jingo" songs did so only because they liked sensationalism, and could not live without excitement. Then there was the military profession. No doubt there were in that calling men who were actuated by the highest conscientiousness, and who, however they (his hearers) might think them mistaken, desired only the welfare of their country, and hated war itself. But the general tendency of the profession must of necessity be in favour of war. (Hear, and "No.") On the previous evening he had heard a member of the Liberal side of the House of Commons say that a soldier was not worth his salt if he did not prefer active service to inactivity in town. There were, in addition, always those persons who did not like the progress of home reforms—(Hear, hear)—and then there were those who delighted in war because they were ambitious. Princes and rulers had been spoken of who were prompted by ambition, but there were also people who deemed it patriotic to promote what they thought glory and the extension of their own nation at the expense of others. (Hear, hear, and a voice: "Nonsense.") He would ask whether the Roman people, whether the Athenians, had not been possessed by this kind of ambition. Some persons seemed to think it was an honour for one country to put a dishonour upon another, and that a policy of this description would tend to the promotion of England's glory. ("No, no.") There were persons who admired courage—mere physical courage—the quality which lions and tigers were endowed with. Robbers and cut-throats were courageous. ("No, no.") Were not the Turks courageous? ("Yes.") Were not the Russians courageous? (Uproar, and cries of "Butchers," "Ruffians," and "Hypocrites.") Cowper had written the following lines:—

Some seek diversion in the tented field
And make the sorrows of mankind their sport,
But war's a game which, were their subjects wise,
King would not play at. Nations would do well
To extort their truncheons from the purer hands
Of heroes whose infirm and baby minds
Are gratified by mischief, and who spoil,
Because men suffer it, their toy the world.

The business of the Peace Society was to oppose that war spirit, and although from time to time circumstances arose which made it necessary for the Peace Society to take what some would call political action, viz., action upon the Government of the day, yet their permanent object was to proclaim those grand principles of peace and goodwill which might be applied from time to time to different circumstances. (Hear, hear.) The business of the Peace Society was to point out by their lectures and their publications the inhumanity of war, the enormous cost it entailed, the increase of taxation which was required, the pressure of those taxes upon the poor and industrious; all the miseries, in fact, that arose from armed conflict. ("Hear," and applause.) They reminded the people of the fearful sufferings of the battle-field and hospital, and of the numberless unhappy ones who became widows and orphans. When the Eurydice was sunk the other day, the whole nation had thrilled at the thought of three hundred lives perishing in such a manner. But if we were engaged in a naval encounter, what would three hundred be among the host of slain?—if we were engaged in a battle on land, what would three thousand be? We were a humane people naturally. If a railway accident occurred, the whole nation was full of sympathy for the wives of those who were killed and injured. We build hospitals very readily, and were always concerned for the suffering people of any part of the world, and yet among us there was this large party clamouring for war. Was it not a terrible thing that people should rejoice at announcements of great battles where multitudes of the foe had been slain? The Peace Society had also the task of pointing out the criminality of war, and they advocated the true interests of the country; for, as Lord Derby had said, "the true interests of Britain are peace." It was in peace that industry thrived; it was in times of peace that the great masses of the working orders, who did not care about these disputes of States, and did not want to engage in this strife, but to work diligently and to live harmoniously—it was during peace that these pre-eminently useful members of society prospered. (Hear, hear.) Yet, if England were really in peril, if any foe were really able to land upon our shores to deprive us of our birthright, whatever the principles of some of them might be ultimately about peace, these men who were now engaged in industry would rise up at once to defend their country. (Applause.) But he hoped earnestly that they would not allow numbers of their fellow men to sacrifice themselves about matters upon which the thoughtful, the wise, and the patriotic were utterly divided in opinion. (Hear, hear.) Their society taught them that they must recognise the equal rights of other nations with themselves, that they

must cease to sing "Britannia rule the waves." ("No, no," "Hear," and uproar.) And as England had no right to any such distinction, so Russia was not entitled to it. John Milton had written:—

"They err who count it glorious to subdue
By conquest far and wide;
But if there be in glory aught of good,
It may by means far different be attained,
Without ambition, war, or violence:
By deeds of peace, by wisdom eminent,
By patience: temperance."

That society advocated the principles of Christianity; it was their purpose to proclaim "peace on earth and goodwill to men," and to do what they could do to induce men to live peaceably with one another. St. Paul had said "Charity suffereth long and is kind; charity vaunteth not itself—(Hear, hear)—charity is not easily provoked; charity thinketh no evil." (Applause.) We should remember that Jesus Christ had died for all the world, that there was not a Russian, not a pirate for whom He did not shed His precious blood, and as all these were thus constituted one family. It was fratricide that they should slaughter one another. If war could not take place with the general concurrence of the nation, then so far as he, an individual, however humble, gave his influence towards war, in that proportion was he responsible. (Hear, hear.) Therefore, whatever their opinions might be about the ultimate lawfulness of resistance, he would exhort his hearers never to consent to a war which was based on a wrong idea, on a hasty alarm, or a mere suspicion, if there were no possibility of other methods being tried. If it was really necessary to go to war, then it should be done with sorrow, with anguish, with humiliation, with bitter tears, and not with shouts as if of rapture and delight. They might be charged with want of patriotism. They had yet to learn that the truest patriotism was not consistent with the highest Christianity. (Hear, hear.) They might be told that they were cowards. They had yet to learn that there was not a moral courage more estimable than mere physical bravery. Whatever they might be called, they knew that the Prince of Peace had said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God." (Applause.) They would continue to proclaim the Gospel to be a Gospel of love and goodwill; they would continue to proclaim that all men formed a universal brotherhood; they would continue to proclaim their belief in that prophecy, and their determination, as far as they could, to fulfil it, that men "should beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning-hooks, and learn war no more." (Loud applause.)

The Rev. W. P. HUGHES seconded the motion, and, as a member of the Methodist body, referred with pride to a protest against war recently signed by 90 per cent. of the ministers of the London district. He went on to argue that there were three great causes of war—first, the halo of glory by which it was the custom to surround military exploits; secondly, the totally erroneous idea of national greatness; and, thirdly, the power of sovereigns and Governments to plunge a country into war without consulting the people. He contrasted the way in which warriors were treated as compared with such heroes as Livingstone, and drew a picture of the difference between the soldier and the common hangman in their methods of taking away the lives of their fellow creatures, arguing that the hangman had a more valid excuse than the soldier for his actions. Quoting the expression of a war correspondent, that "we had not yet gone to war because there was too much commerce and too much religion in the country," he believed there was great truth in the observation, and that commerce and religion were the guardian angels of the country at the present moment. On his last point he quoted Carlyle's description of the men drawn from the villages to fight the battles of France and England in Spain, and his answer to the question, "Whether these men had any quarrel? Busy as the devil is, not the slightest! But their governors had fallen out, and, instead of shooting one another, they made these poor blockheads shoot." He disapproved of the preparations of the Government for war, and alluding to the prevalence of strikes, expressed his wish to see a strike among the working men of the world against their Governments going to war without the express sanction of those who had to bear the burden, viz., the people.

The resolution was then put and carried, with only one dissentient, the CHAIRMAN observing that "the exception proved the rule."

Mr. J. W. PRANK, M.P., then moved:—

That this meeting, while gratefully acknowledging the efforts made by the British Government to prevent the war breaking out in Eastern Europe, and the consistency with which they adhered to their declared policy of neutrality while the war lasted, cannot but express the deepest regret that by declining to enter into Congress on the terms which other Powers were willing to accept, and by menacing military demonstrations, they have brought the cause of peace into imminent peril, and spread disquietude and alarm throughout Europe, and engendered in the heart of a friendly nation feelings of bitterness and rancour, which, it is feared, may prove to be the fruitful seeds of future jealousy and discord. The meeting further desires to express its earnest hope that the question in dispute between England and Russia, instead of being appealed to the wager of battle, may be referred to the good offices of a friendly Power, in accordance with the Protocol of Paris of 1856, or be settled by some other form of peaceful arbitration.

He said the country had no sympathy with Russia for going to war with Turkey, and that he and Mr.

Richard on that question declined to follow the right hon. gentleman who had so often on other questions led them to victory—the right hon. member for Greenwich—(loud cheers were given at this reference to Mr. Gladstone)—because they felt they would have been endorsing the opinion that the state of Turkey could be remedied by war. They felt that if Turkey had been left alone she would have fallen to pieces, and have been reconstructed by a European Congress without the necessity for a desolating war. (Cheers.) The doctrine of this society was not only peace for this country, but peace for all countries. (Cheers.) In twenty-two and a-half years the national debts of European countries had increased by 2,218,000,000*l.*, nearly the whole of which had been spent in armies and navies, while not more than twelve per cent. had been expended on works of peace. This, he contended, was a disgrace to the nineteenth century. (Hear, hear.) Referring to the illness of Earl Russell, he quoted that nobleman's opinion, "that, looking at all the wars that had been carried on during the last century, and examining into the causes of them, I do not see in any one of those wars, if there had been a proper temper between the parties, that the question might not have been settled without recourse to arms." Were these discouraging times to the Peace Society? Was not the whole cry, whether in Russia or Turkey, for peace? The whole cry of this country, whether in support of the Government or the Opposition, was also for peace. He believed that many of the Ministers were as much in favour of peace as he was himself, but they went about peace in a very different way to what he would go about it. (Cheers and laughter.) In the recent election contest in Durham, which had resulted in a tie, both candidates claimed the suffrages of the constituents because they were in favour of peace. A wonderful change since the time prior to the Crimean War! He believed that in all human probability there would be peace and a conference. (Loud cheers.) He believed there would be no diplomatic triumph on either side, but a little giving way both by England and Russia. And after all that had taken place, we were just where we were before the war between Russia and Turkey. The strength of England was not, however, in the vote of six millions, or in calling out the reserves, or in the employment of Sepoys (all of which he had steadily voted against); but the strength of this country was in her vast resources of moral power, so that when she said "I will have a thing," and that thing was right, the other nations would join her and it would come about, and the mere raising of an additional force of 10,000 men would have no effect whatever. The resolution did well, he thought, in applauding the conduct of the Government in keeping out of war, but it was only right to urge on the Government still to keep out of it until they found that no other means would succeed. How far they could carry the doctrine of "peace at any price" he never could find out, but what he was certainly opposed to was "war at any price." (Cheers.) He felt there was nothing at the present moment to discourage the Peace Society, but a good deal to encourage it. The disturbances in Lancashire, and the distress in the North, were owing in a great degree to the Eastern policy of this country, and he earnestly hoped that those difficulties might be got over by a peaceful solution of that question, and that the honour of England would best be vindicated by such a solution. (Cheers.)

Mr. HENRY VINCENT seconded the resolution, and expressed his warm sympathy with the objects of the society, which were not only identified with the best interests of the people, but with the social progress and political liberties of all mankind. In the course of an eloquent speech Mr. Vincent spoke of the claims of Mr. Henry Richard to the respect of the people of this country by his labours in the cause of universal peace. He then referred to Mr. Cobden, and delivered a glowing panegyric on Mr. John Bright as a man who had always been the apostle of peace and who had never bowed the knee to arbitrary power.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. BARNABAS C. HOBBS (of Indiana) moved the third resolution as follows:—

That this meeting desires to send cordial greetings to their fellow-labourers in other countries, and to encourage them to persevere in their beneficent exertions, with the assurance that, in spite of temporary checks, the work in which we are engaged is in harmony with the most powerful and prevailing tendencies of an enlightened and Christian civilisation.

They desire especially to acknowledge the courageous consistency with which their illustrious colleague, Signor Mancini, has adhered to the principles of peace, whether in or out of office, and to congratulate him on the fresh triumph he has recently won in the Italian Chamber for the cause of arbitration.

The Christian patriot is saddened at the thought that, though we live in the most enlightened age of the world, and nearly nineteen centuries since the advent of the Prince of Peace, Christian nations settle their conflicting interests by the arbitrament of the sword. War is a game heroes love to play at, however much of sorrow, misery, poverty, and general demoralisation may follow in its pathway. Its trappings, honours, and victories hasten onward the work of death and human misery, regardless of the millions of expended treasure it entails, and the cries of widows and orphans in thousands of sorrowing homes. When we sum up its work and

see the result it is very unsatisfactory. Take the experience of England and the United States during the last seventy years. English seamen chose to change their citizenship, and enter the service of American vessels. England claimed the right to search such vessels and compel her deserters to resume their former citizenship and obedience to English law. The result was a three years' war, ending in mutual damage, hardship, and national hatred that has been not fully extinguished in two generations. How easily the whole question could have been settled by referring the matter, which was a simple question of international law, to the Fellows of some University or other chosen arbitrators! It was a remarkable feature of this angry contest between two nations of a common parentage, literature, civilisation, and religion, that when plenipotentiaries met to determine conditions of peace not a word was said about the causes of the war. The question was not determined until Mason and Slidell, who were taken from a British vessel during the late war of the rebellion, were, by arbitration, remanded back to English custody; the only sensible way, after all, to end the dispute. How easily the long and sanguinary contest before Sebastopol could have been avoided by a like peaceful and equitable means, and the honour and happiness of England, France, Russia, and Turkey have been maintained! The late war between France and Germany seems really to have been brought on because a diplomatic messenger was not received as courteously, away from the capital, as he desired. A simple snub during informal diplomacy was considered a sufficient offence to justify a declaration of war between two great Christian nations, who have for their code of morals, "Agree with thy adversary quickly whilst thou art in the way with him," and "Endeavour as much as in you lies to be at peace with all men." The result shows the folly of seeking redress by the sword. An emperor lost his empire and a nation two of its provinces. The contest was an occasion, however, for the display of valour, and men became heroes. In our late American Rebellion, if the South could have been content to put a price upon their slaves, he thought the nation might soon have been willing to ransom them, so dangerous had the slave system become, when 4,000,000 men, women, and children were held in galling servitude—kept in ignorance, under the lash, in a Republic founded upon the axiom, "That all men are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness"—a Republic whose foundations were laid in Protestant Christianity. And yet North and South had been for 200 years under the influence of the syren song, while heaven held the vials of wrath over the land ready to be poured out when God's patience and mercy could say it is enough. It was said in old time, "The gods first make mad whom they would destroy." The desperate resort to rebellion, in order to establish human slavery, cost our nation in money six times as much as all the slaves were worth, and sent Death up to our windows, poured out the best blood of our nation like water, returned mutilated husbands, brothers, and sons to sorrowing homes. Such is war—hardhearted, remorseless, and cruel. It is perpetually crying, like the horse-leech, "Give, give," while, like a vampire it sucks the life-blood out of the nation. A few years ago, when America was in arms, and some people—he would not say who—rejoiced to see the fratricidal contest, where civil and religious liberty were made mutually supportive, when the Alabama was launched upon her doubtful errand, and England was told that her interest was with the cotton-fields of the South, when American statesmen and scholars read anxiously the morning telegrams and the timely, clear, and unanswerable eloquence of John Bright, Cobden, Richard, Gibson, Derby, and other peace-loving statesmen was heard, America felt sure that all would yet work out well, for the intelligent and God-fearing and labour-loving classes of England were in favour of the right. What a happy discovery it was that the Alabama claims could be settled by arbitration! If three million pounds were a large sum, the Fishery Bill makes it all right, and how vastly more economical than war! Whatever names may live in English marble, English bronze, and English history, it will be found that the statesmen who have sought to harmonise the asperities of nations, and to bind them together by friendship, reciprocal commercial relations, and a perpetual peace in the love and fear of Heaven, will be the men that two continents will honour. And Mancini will be among them. (Applause.)

Mr. HOWARD EVANS (chairman of the committee of the Working Men's Peace Society) seconded the resolution, and contended that the great majority of the working-men of this country did not want war. The society with which he was connected contained the leaders of all the great trades' unions of the country, and he could declare that not a single working-man holding a position of trust had given utterance to a single word in favour of war during the recent excitement. He referred to the recent meetings of working-men and agricultural labourers in support of the truth of his assertion. He believed that in the long run the principles of right, justice, and peace would triumph, and there were indications already that right away through Europe the great industrial countries were taking up the doctrines which this society preached.

The resolution was put and carried unanimously, and a vote of thanks to the chairman for presiding concluded the proceedings.

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